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TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022

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Vol. 53 • No. 146

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Rahul quizzed for fourth day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As Rahul Gandhi on Monday was questioned for the fourth day by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, the Congress held a satyagraha against the misuse of Central probe agencies.

MEETS PRESIDENT ▸ PAGE 11

Gopal Gandhi opts out of race

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties went into a huddle after former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi declined their invitation to be the Opposition candidate in the Presidential election. Mr. Gandhi is the third public figure to back out after Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and National Conference leader and former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah.

The Opposition is now considering Trinamool Congress V-P Yashwant Sinha for the post, but a decision will be taken at a meeting on Tuesday morning.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

First set of Agniveers will join service in June 2023, says Army

Registrations to start on July 1, job rallies in August

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army has issued the first notification for recruitment of Agniveers under the Agnipath scheme, with the process set to begin in July and the first set of Agniveers to join service in June 2023. The Army has already said it will recruit 40,000 Agniveers in two batches this year.

"The registration will open on July 1, and the first recruitment rally is expected to be held in mid-August," an Army official said.

"Registration will be opened from July by the respective AROs [Army Recruiting Office] for Agniveer general duty, Agniveer technical, Agniveer technical (aviation/ammunition examiner), Agniveer clerk/store keeper technical, Agniveer tradesman 10th pass and Agniveer tradesman 8th pass," the notification said.

The Army plans to conduct the rallies till November, with induction into training centres to be done in two batches – a first batch of 25,000 Agniveers by the first half of December, with the remaining recruitments in the second batch by the first half of February 2023. The Army has planned 83 rallies across the country.

Candidates will be enrolled for four years, which includes a six-month training period. On discharge after completion of four years, Agniveers will be paid a "Seva Nidhi" package of approximately ₹11.71 lakh. They will not be entitled to any pension or gratuity.

The police detaining activists of the Left parties to thwart their rally in Visakhapatnam on Monday. •K.R. DEEPAK

'Govt. crushed our dreams'

For more than two years, 20-year-old Sahil Kumar has been running nine km every day, in the hope of getting a job in the Army.

Son of an agriculturist in a village in Bihar's Nawada district, Mr. Kumar says his father had big dreams for him. "But this government has crushed all my dreams at one stroke, I have lost sleep, lost interest in life," he says. ▸ PAGE 11

Bharat bandh affects life in some regions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharat bandh against the Agnipath recruitment scheme called by unnamed organisations on social media platforms disrupted life in some parts of the country on Monday. Road and rail traffic was disrupted for the fifth day.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella organisation of nearly 300 farmers' organisations, decided to hold nationwide protests of farmers against the scheme on June 24.

The police and other authorities in several States had a tough time controlling mobs. Ban on gatherings was imposed in several areas. The Railways cancelled 529 trains (181 mail/express and 348 passenger trains) on Monday.

Delhi witnessed massive traffic blocks due to protests by the Opposition parties and student groups.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

We will complete suburban rail project in 40 months: PM

'Bengaluru is city of dreams for youth and an inspiration for Atma Nirbhar Bharat'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Hailing Bengaluru as the "city of dreams" for lakhs of youngsters from across the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday assured people of the city that he would strive to complete in 40 months the suburban railway project that had seen "just discussion" for the last 40 years.

"The project got stuck in files for 16 years. If it had been completed 40 years ago, the congestion in Bengaluru would not have increased," Mr. Modi said, while addressing a public programme at Kommaghatta ground in Kengeri here after laying the foundation stone for the suburban rail project and various other rail and national highway and ring road projects, worth a total of about ₹33,000 crore.

"Now, the opportunity has been given to me to implement the project that has been inordinately delayed. I will not waste time," Mr. Modi told the audience. The suburban rail project would help in increasing the infrastructural capacity of Bengaluru and reduce the compulsion to stay in the city for those travelling from other areas, he observed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at a public programme on Kommaghatta Grounds near Kengeri in Bengaluru on Monday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

"Bengaluru is a city of dreams for lakhs of youth. It is also the reflection of the spirit of *Ek bharat shresht Bharat*. Evolution of Bengaluru is also evolution of lakhs of dreams. Hence the Centre is trying continuously to improve the infrastructural capacity of Bengaluru in the last eight years," he said, while remarking that "the life of those trying to turn their dreams into reality should be free from hassles and their travel time should reduce."

The Prime Minister repeatedly used the phrase "double engine government" (with Centre and State being BJP-ruled) as aiding the people of Karnataka, in an effort to reply to the Opposition in the State that has been ridiculing it using the same phrase.

"The double engine government is constantly working to free Bengaluru from traffic jams. In this context we are trying to provide all modes of transport, including rail, road, metro, underpass, fly-over. We are committed to linking suburban areas with proper transport connectivity. I am happy that the double engine government is working towards improving the lives of people of Karnataka," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 6

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Russian crude exports

8.42 In million tonnes, the quantity of oil China imported from Russia last month, a 55% on-year rise. The latest number was a spike from the 5.44 million tonnes China imported in May 2021, according to figures from the Customs Administration. Thus, Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia as China's main source of oil. Beijing, which has refused to condemn Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, has also been accused of providing diplomatic cover for Russia by blasting Western sanctions and arms sales to Kyiv. AFP

Energy crisis in Africa

43 The percentage of the African population, or 600 million people, who lack access to electricity — mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. The number of Africans with access to electricity fell during the COVID pandemic, but $25 billion in annual investments could bring full coverage by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Africa is facing far more severe effects of climate change than most other parts of the world, despite emitting less energy-related carbon dioxide than any other region, the IEA added. AFP

Sea of waste

68,500 In tonnes, the amount of medical waste the city of Shanghai produced during its recent COVID lockdown, with daily output up to six times higher than normal. While the mass testing strategy has allowed the world's most populous nation to avoid a public health catastrophe, it is creating a sea of hazardous waste and a mounting economic burden for local governments. The disposal systems in the poorer rural parts of the country have long been overburdened. AFP

Dipping losses

9.7 In $ billion, airlines' losses globally this year, down from $52 billion in 2021, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). IATA represents some 290 airlines comprising 83% of global air traffic. The Director General of the IATA said that while the outlook for airlines globally is positive, the business environment remains challenging. The World Bank expects energy prices to soar 50% compared to 2021. Fixing balance sheets of airlines carrying debts of $650 billion will be a monumental challenge. PTI

Two-year high

7.38 In million barrels per day (bpd), is Saudi Arabia's crude exports in April. Crude exports in April rose about 2% from about 7.235 million bpd reported for March. The world's largest oil exporter's April crude production rose to its highest level in two years at 10.441 million bpd from 10.300 million bpd in the previous month. Oil product exports eased 0.015 million bpd to 1.473 million bpd in April, while demand for oil products rose 0.177 million bpd to 2.234 million bpd, data showed. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

A marooned Macron

What are the implications of President Macron losing the majority in the National Assembly? Who is his main Opposition?

G. SAMPATH

THE GIST

- President Emmanuel Macron has lost his majority in the National Assembly, the lower house of the French Parliament. He could muster only 245 seats in the 577-member assembly. The number needed for an absolute majority is 289.
- Mr. Macron's pro-business policies, rising inequality, and growing discontent over inflation have been steadily eroding his support base, especially among left-leaning voters.
- President Macron's main Opposition in Parliament would be the leftwing NUPES coalition led by Mr. Melenchon. NUPES, or New Social and Ecological People's Union, includes communists, socialists, Greens and different shades of leftwing groups that do not necessarily agree on every issue.

The story so far: President Emmanuel Macron has lost his majority in the National Assembly, the lower house of the French Parliament. In the legislative elections, which concluded on June 19, Ensemble, the centrist coalition led by Mr. Macron, could muster only 245 seats in the 577-member assembly. The number needed for an absolute majority is 289. At the same time, NUPES, the left-wing alliance led by Jean-Luc Melenchon, and the far-right National Rally of Marine Le Pen made substantial gains, finishing with 131 and 89 seats respectively. The mainstream conservatives, Les Republicains, managed to get 61 seats.

What is the significance of France's legislative elections?
Although the President's office is the most powerful of political posts in France, with scope to govern by decree, a majority in the National Assembly is still needed for passing new laws or amending the Constitution. In the 2017 legislative elections, Mr. Macron's party and his allies won an absolute majority of 350 seats, which meant he could push through whatever legislation he wanted in line with his policy goals. But this time, short of the majority needed to control the Assembly, he may be forced to make political compromises in order to cobble up the numbers.

After the first round, the centrist Ensemble coalition and the leftwing NUPES were neck-and-neck with around 25% of the votes each, while the National Rally got 19% and Les Republicains, 10%

Apart from having a say on key bills, members of the National Assembly, or 'deputies', also have the power to pose tough questions to cabinet Ministers, organise hearings, and set up enquiry committees.

How do the legislative elections work?
The legislative polls are held in two rounds, with one elected deputy for each of the 577 constituencies. The top two candidates with the most votes in the first round face off in the second round to determine the winner. But if a candidate wins more than 50% of the vote in the first round – which is rare – then she is declared elected without the need for a second round. This year, the first and second rounds were held on the 12th and 19th of June respectively. After the first round, the centrist Ensemble coalition and the leftwing NUPES were neck-and-neck with around 25% of the votes each, while the National Rally got 19% and Les Republicains, 10%.

Why did President Macron lose his majority, and which parties have gained at his expense?
Mr. Macron's pro-business policies, rising inequality, and growing discontent over inflation have been steadily eroding his support base, especially among left-leaning voters. One major factor in his comfortable win in the Presidential elections was the keenly felt political imperative to keep the far-right Marine Le Pen out of the Elysee Palace. It delivered to Macron the votes of the left parties in addition to his own. But this factor was not in play in the legislative elections where the firebrand leftist Mr. Melenchon strung together a robust alliance of all the left and green parties and ensured they were not contesting against each other. As a result, the leftwing coalition increased its presence in the National Assembly from 45 to 131. Another big gainer from the disenchantment with Macron's policies – especially his forays into pension reform – seems to be the far-right Ms. Le Pen, whose party increased its tally more than ten-fold, from eight to 89.

What are the ideological differences between Mr. Macron and his main opposition in the National Assembly?
President Macron's main Opposition in Parliament would be the leftwing NUPES coalition led by Mr. Melenchon. NUPES, or New Social and Ecological People's Union, includes communists, socialists, Greens and different shades of leftwing groups that do not necessarily agree on every issue. Mr. Macron, a former investment banker, followed classic neoliberal policies in his first term as President – he lowered corporate tax rates from 33.3% to 25%, ushered in labour reforms that cut employment benefits and enabled easier lay-offs, and did away with the wealth tax. He now wants to raise the retirement age – a move strongly opposed by the working classes and the vast bureaucracy. NUPES, on the other hand, has an agenda focused on social and climate justice. It is calling for the retirement age to be lowered from 62 to 60, the return of the wealth tax, and for the minimum wage to be hiked by 15%. While Mr. Macron already has – in the aftermath of the inflation fuelled by factors related to the Ukraine war – capped fuel and gas prices, NUPES wants a cap on the prices of all essentials. With regard to the EU, Mr. Melenchon has been speaking of France unilaterally disregarding EU treaties that interfere with its national policies, but he doesn't enjoy the support of all his coalition partners on this issue.

Strong resistance: Jean-Luc Melenchon, leader of the left-wing coalition New Ecologic and Social People's Union (NUPES) and candidates hold up a victory sign before an outdoor news conference ahead of the second round of the French parliamentary elections, in Paris, France on June 17. • REUTERS

Lacking a majority in Parliament, what are Macron's options?
Political observers speculate that he might try to regain control of the Assembly by seeking an alliance with a broadly like-minded rival, such as Les Republicains, whose 61 seats would be enough to secure a majority. The other alternative would be to negotiate and build consensus with select parties on specific issues in order to get key legislation passed.

What does the reduced majority mean in terms of France's position with regard to the Ukraine war?
It is unlikely to matter in terms of France's foreign policy.

However, the indirect political pressure on the Macron government on account of the war's impact on the domestic economy, especially inflation, is bound to go up with a higher representation of the Opposition in the Assembly and its enhanced power to block legislations.

EXPLAINER

El Salvador's Bitcoin bet

How has the adoption of Bitcoin as an official currency worked out for the Central American country?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

The story so far: The crash in the price of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies has put El Salvador's government in trouble. The Central American country, led by President Nayib Bukele who is a self-proclaimed fan of cryptocurrencies, had adopted Bitcoin as an official currency in September last year. The crash in the price of Bitcoin has raised concerns over the government's ability to repay its debt.

What is the problem in El Salvador?
The crash in the price of Bitcoin from around $69,000 in November last year to around $20,000 this week has caused losses to investors around the world. According to some estimates, the average cryptocurrency investor is deep in losses after the significant correction in the prices of cryptocurrencies. The crash in Bitcoin's price has not spared the government of El Salvador either. President Bukele has been using taxpayer's money to bet on Bitcoin. In fact, a lot of times when the price of Bitcoin crashed steeply, he had gone on popular social media site Twitter to announce to the world that he was 'buying the dip' (this refers to purchasing an asset after it has dropped in price). Even during the current crash, he has plunged into the market to buy Bitcoin and has urged citizens of El Salvador to be patient. It is said that the El Salvador government's investment of over $100 million in Bitcoin has lost more than half of its value till date due to the crash.

Why did El Salvador adopt Bitcoin as an official currency?
In 2001, El Salvador had adopted the U.S. dollar as its official currency. After Bitcoin was adopted as an official currency in September last year, both Bitcoin and the U.S. dollar have been used as official currencies. The El Salvador government has been trying to encourage citizens to primarily use Bitcoin for their daily transactions. It even came out with a payments wallet named Chivo which gave out for free Bitcoin worth $30 initially to encourage people to use Bitcoin in transactions.

Analysts believe that the decision to adopt Bitcoin as an official currency may have to do with the El Salvador government's inability to borrow in U.S. dollars. El Salvador's public debt has risen to over 100% of gross domestic product and its recent attempt to borrow $1 billion using bonds backed by Bitcoin failed. The government's bonds are trading at a steep discount and are classified as junk by investors. President Bukele has already had to rely on financial help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to meet his government's spending needs. It should be noted that while the El Salvador government can tax its citizens to meet its need for dollars, it could turn out to be an unpopular move among citizens. Many believe that the President has mismanaged funds received from abroad during the pandemic and this has made international organisations hesitant to lend any more dollars to his government. The IMF had also opposed President Bukele's decision to make Bitcoin an official currency.

President of El Salvador Nayib Bukele • REUTERS

Bitcoin offers a chance for the El Salvador government to cut down its reliance on the U.S. dollar to fund its spending. Greater adoption of Bitcoin in El Salvador will allow the government to tax and spend in Bitcoins instead of U.S. dollars. This maybe why the government is making various attempts to encourage the use of Bitcoin over U.S. dollars by its citizens. Mr. Bukele has also set up geothermal plants to power his Bitcoin mining facilities. He can use the mined Bitcoins to directly fund his government's domestic spending if Bitcoin gains greater acceptance in the country. Otherwise, he can exchange his Bitcoin for U.S. dollars and use it to repay debt or even spend it on the domestic economy since the dollar is still the most commonly accepted currency in El Salvador. This is why the fall in the price of Bitcoin is worrying analysts. A crash in Bitcoin's price against the U.S. dollar means that the government will have to sell its Bitcoin for fewer dollars, thus affecting its capacity to repay dollar debt.

How well has Bitcoin done in El Salvador?
Most citizens of El Salvador have been reluctant to adopt Bitcoin as a medium of exchange, that is, as money. Many citizens, it is claimed, registered on the payments wallet Chivo that was pushed by the government simply to sell off their free Bitcoin in exchange for $30. It should be noted that the acceptance of cryptocurrencies in general has been miniscule across the globe. This has been the case despite the fact that the supply of cryptocurrencies is limited by design, which could potentially help them maintain or increase in value over time. One big reason for the low acceptance of cryptocurrencies has been their extreme price volatility, making them an unreliable store of value. People in general are hesitant to accept something as money if they are not fairly sure about its likely value in the future.

THE GIST

- The crash in the price of Bitcoin from around $69,000 in November last year to around $20,000 this week has caused losses to investors around the world. It is said that the El Salvador government's investment of over $100 million in Bitcoin has lost more than half of its value till date due to the crash
- Bitcoin offers a chance for the El Salvador government to cut down its reliance on the U.S. dollar to fund its spending.
- However, most citizens of El Salvador have been reluctant to adopt Bitcoin as a medium of exchange, that is, as money.

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BDA scraps tender for PRR, decides to float fresh one

Investors want more clarity on land acquisition cost

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The tender process for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) has been scrapped by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which has decided to issue a fresh one.

The move comes in the backdrop of investors, who took part in the tender process, asking for more clarity on the land acquisition cost.

BDA officials, citing a Supreme Court order, have been maintaining that the BDA Act applies for the land acquisition and not the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, as demanded by the farmers.

Last year, the BDA estimated that if the compensation package was fixed as per 2013 Act, the acquisition cost would require more than ₹14,000 crore.

The 74-km project requires 2,560 acres of land and will connect Tumakuru Road with Hosur Road. Over 15 years ago, the BDA notified 1,810 acres of land.

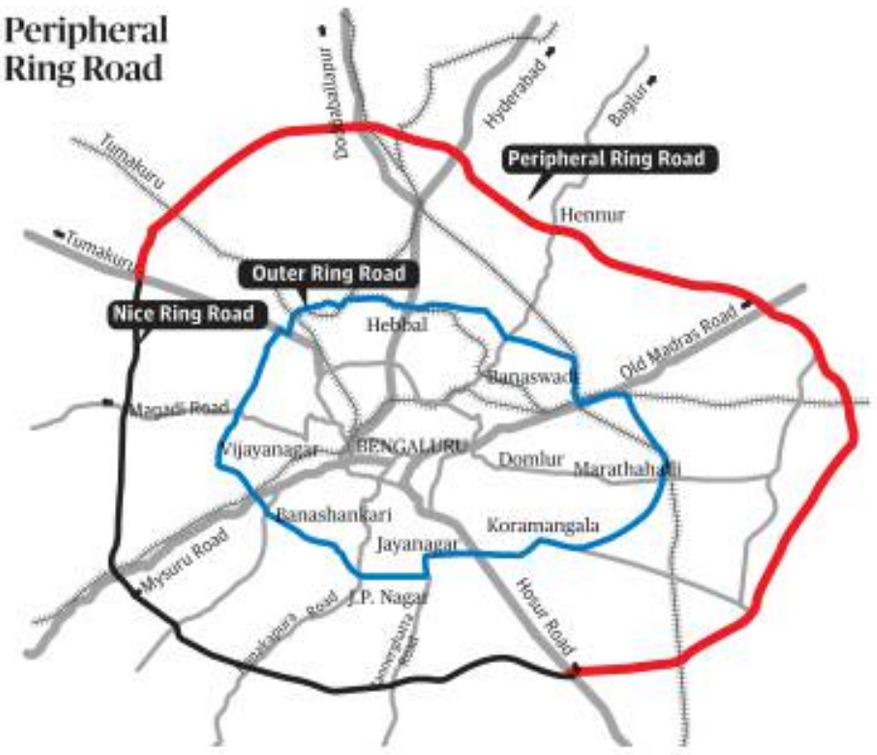
An official of the BDA said, "During the pre-bidding meeting, the investors had raised queries concerning land acquisition. They wanted to know how much land acquisition would cost and who would bear the cost. Earlier, two compensation packages were proposed: one is compensation for the land cost that prevailed when the notification was issued with the 12% interest per year, and another one is fixing cost as per the recent guidance value. If we fix the compensation based on the land cost that was there when notification was issued, it would come around ₹3,000 crore. Farmers will not agree to this as it is too low. Fixing the compensation as per the existing guidance value is likely to cost over ₹4,500 crore".

The official said that the BDA has already written to the State government seeking guidance on fixing compensation. "The next tender will be floated after getting clearance from a committee headed by the Chief Secretary," said the official.

The official added that for the previous tender, eight companies had shown interest. This included two foreign and six Indian companies, such as Nagarjuna, IRB, Adani, L&T and others.

The BDA is planning to construct eight-lane roads and integrate them with the existing NICE Road.

The project will be taken up under PPP model along the lines of design, build, finance, operate, transfer (DBFOT) model.



Migrant labourers approach KSHRC seeking protection from police brutality

They alleged police threatened to demolish their huts and torture them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

At least two migrant labourers from West Bengal and Delhi, who work as waste collectors, on Monday approached the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) and filed a petition seeking protection from police brutality. They alleged that the police were threatening to demolish their huts and torture them to evict them.

Rabbani Sardar, 52, from West Bengal and Anees Bundu, 38, from Delhi, who are among the hundred-odd labourers staying in a colony on Saibaba Road, Anekal, alleged that the brutality started on June 17, when a group of five to six policemen, attached to the Hebbagodi station, barged into their work site and started abusing and caning them.

They also alleged that the police kicked them and told them to vacate within 24 hours, terming them illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

"We showed them our ID cards stating that we were Indian citizens, but they threw the cards away and beat us mercilessly, and even the women were not spared," Mr. Sardar alleged.

Similar stories

Other residents shared similar stories. "The police left the place and warned us that they would come back the next day with a bulldozer. Where should we go? We are just eking out a living by collecting garbage. Anyone listening, please help us," appealed Ameena Khatun, a migrant labourer.

It all started when the Madanayakanahalli police busted a racket and arrested nine persons, including three Bangladesh nationals, a few days ago for running a fake ID card racket.

The accused would get PAN, Aadhaar, and other ID cards using fake documents and even have the seal and signature of gazetted officials.

The police started visiting migrant colonies situated mostly on the outskirts of the city and started checking documents.

Residents alleged that the police started calling everyone Bangladeshi nationals randomly. The migrant labourers protested and presented their documents, but the police turned them down, terming them as fake, and told them to vacate or face arrest, they said.

Th police took money from them after beating them up and the incidents were recorded on CCTV cameras, another migrant labourer alleged.

"This amounts to police harassment and innocent people are under constant threat. The police should check and probe, but they should handle with care when it comes to women, children, and senior citizens," said R. Kaleemullah, member of Swaraj India, a city-based social group helping the labourers.

A video grab showing migrant workers complaining about police atrocities in Bengaluru on Monday.

Police rubbish charges

When a senior police officer was contacted, he said the probe was in continuation of the racket busted recently and the police are looking for Bangladesh nationals. He rubbished allegations of brutality and bribe.

"We are working on the leads that some of the Bangladesh nationals are taking shelter in these colonies with Indian IDs," he said.

The police are now taking the fingerprints of the migrant labourers and recording their ID details for further investigation.

The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling in State from June 25

20th edition of the event will be held at 10 locations in nine cities

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka will be held at 10 locations in nine cities in June and July.

The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine. The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions. The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance.

Event sponsors

Platinum Sponsor for the event is Presidency University, Bangalore. The Gold Sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru. Silver Sponsors for the event are: ACS College of Engineering, Bangalore; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bangalore; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bangalore; Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bangalore; Universal Group of Institutions, Bangalore, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bangalore.

Other associate Sponsors are: CMR University, Bangalore, Karnataka State Open Univeristy, Mysuru; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, and Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more details, contact following mobile numbers: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift. All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

To pre register for the event & STEP test scan the **QR code** or visit **bit.ly/3N2Sy2F**

The schedule

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Bangalore North	June 25	Chowdiah Memorial Hall	16th Cross Rd, Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Mangalore	June 25	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts' Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Tumakuru	June 26	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology , Tumakuru
Bidar	June 26	Gyansudha Vidyalaya	Gyansudha Vidyalaya, Mamankeri campus, Bidar
Bangalore South	July 2	NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium	22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru
Hubballi	July 2	K.L.E Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar,Hubballi
Ballari	July 3	BPSC Pre-University College	BPSC Pre-University College, Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysore	July 3	"Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering"	P.B. No.206, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysuru
Davangere	July 3	Bapuji Business School	Bapuji MBA College , Lake View Campus, S.S. Layout, Davanagere

Journalist assaulted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Upparpet police are on the lookout for three persons, who allegedly assaulted a journalist of Samvada channel when he went to cover the protest against the textbook book revision at Freedom Park on Saturday. The victim Theja T. and his colleague were covering the protest, when a group of people, identified as Deepu Gowda, Harish Kumar, and Bhyrappa, allegedly abused and assaulted and accused him of supporting the RSS. When Mr. Theja tried to reason with them, they chased and assaulted him.

He was saved by a few police personnel.

After touching record lows, banana prices now grow to new heights

Traders say supply crunch occurred as many farmers gave up on cultivating bananas as they received some of the lowest prices ever during the pandemic

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Usually a staple fruit in most households, buying bananas now will burn a hole in the pockets of consumers. For the first time in over five years, the prices of the fruit have hit record highs. At wholesale markets, the yelakki variety has been priced at ₹65 per kg, while retail prices have crossed ₹90 at several places, including HOPCOMS.

It has also crossed the ₹100 mark on online platforms. This trend is expected to continue for at least the next six months as arrivals in the markets have taken a drastic hit. While the regular arrival of bananas at the Binny Mill Banana Market was over 250 tonnes a day, it has now come down to 90 to 100 tonnes. The traders say that the supply crunch occurred as many farmers gave up on cultivating bananas as they received some of the lowest prices ever for the crop during the two years of COVID-19.

"The prices during the last two years were mostly just 25% of the average rates. That is why farmers chose not to grow bananas this year, which obviously led to lower arrivals. Due to this, between March and now, the prices have doubled," said K.G. Purushotham, president, Banana Fruits Merchants' Association.

Apart from the *yelakki* variety at ₹60 to ₹65 at the wholesale markets, the *robusta* variety is at ₹20 to ₹23 per kg. The *nendra* variety is ₹55 to ₹60, while the *chandra* variety is at ₹40 to ₹45. Mr. Purushotham added that the current prices are 50% more than the average price for around seven years.

"The arrivals from neighbouring States have also reduced this season. The arrivals from Tamil Nadu are mostly diverted to Kerala as it is a bigger market than we are. *Robusta* on the other hand has to come only from Andhra Pradesh as our State's production is only 10 to 15%. However, those arrivals are also less," he explained.

"When bananas arrived here, they used to come in big trucks. Now we only see smaller pick-up trucks at the markets," another trader said. The prices will not come down anytime soon as bananas are annual crops and a new cycle of cultivation is only expected to start early next year. Most traders say that the price surge is going to continue throughout the chain of festivals which are going to come up and maybe a few months after that.

But Horticulture Department officials disagree. The total cultivation area of the bananas has remained close to 1.3 lakh hectares only in the recent few years, their data shows. "When it is banana season, the prices fall. Now the arrivals are a little less as most farmers have prepared their crops to be harvested during the festive season. Maybe for a month the prices will be more and then arrivals will increase and the prices will stabilise," said K. Dundi, Additional Director (Fruits), Horticulture Department.

Both traders and department officials said that post the peak pandemic period, an increase in the number of weddings and other functions also led to an increase in demand for bananas.

But for those, who cannot have a complete meal without the fruit, the increasing prices is not good news. "Three days ago, I bought *yelakki* bananas for ₹80 per kilo and today (Monday), I had to pay ₹90 for the same. Since we consume the fruit on a daily basis, I think we will switch to the lesser priced *robusta* variety for a while," said Kaveri, a resident of Vigyan Nagar.

At wholesale markets, the yelakki variety has been priced at ₹65 a kg, while retail prices have crossed ₹90 at several outlets, including HOPCOMS. • FILE PHOTO

Increased price of mangoes at HOPCOMS

Variety	Price per kg three days ago	Price per kg as of Monday
Badami	90	130
Mallika	90	110
Malgova	120 - 140	160
Imam Pasand	180	200

Mango prices also see a jump in last 3 days

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Although mangoes arrived late to the markets this year and experts had said that they would be available till mid-August, traders are saying that the season is almost over.

"The demand is still high for mangoes. But the arrivals from Ramanagaram and the surrounding mango growing areas have now almost stopped, which is why the prices have picked up in the last three days," said a manager at a HOPCOMS stall.

Two African nationals held in online cheating racket

Ppolice intercepted the accused when they were heading to a courier company to receive a parcel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

CRIME NOTES

The Northeast Cybercrime police team busted another online cheating racket and caught two African nationals, who were allegedly sourcing debit cards from locals in Tripura to use the cheating amount to be diverted to these accounts. Based on a tip-off, a team of officials intercepted Adje Ange Alpride Adoni and his associate Fasoein Avaloho, while they were heading to a private courier company at Kogilu Cross to receive the parcel. Sensing trouble, Avaloho smashed his phone on the road, but the police managed to recover Adoni's two mobile phones, and recovered the courier tracking number.

Based on the tracking details, the police went to the private courier office and got the parcel, which contained five debit cards stuffed in a box.

Diverting money

The accused, according to Santosh Ram, Inspector, Northeast Cybercrime Station, were suspected to be running an online cheating racket and diverting the money to the bank account which they had sourced from their local contacts in Tripura.

The accused have been booked under various sections of the Foreigners Act and the IT Act and the police have taken them into custody for further investigation.

Rail Wheel Plant,Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841231

E-Open Tender NoIice No:- S/RWP/E/09/2022-23, Dated : 17.06.2022, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN.** : 1. **Tender No.** : 01211033A, **Short Description of item:** Flake/Granular type Phenol, **Quantity** : 54238 Kg, **Date of Tender Closing\Opening** : 27.07.2022 at 14:00 hrs. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in.** 2. The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.

For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP\CPRO\Advt./2022-23/27

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open e-tender based on **single packet system** Tender Notice No. **BLW-ISO-22163-IRIS Dt.17.06.2022** is invited by DEE/M/BLW/BSB on Indian Railways portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for and on behalf of president of India for the following work:- **Description of work** : Work for Re-Certification of ISO 22163:2017 as per scope of work at Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221004 through Open Tender Basis. **Approx. Value (in Rs):** Rs 9,97,690.00, **EMD/ SD (in Rs.)** : 20000.00, **Completion period of work:-** 36 months • Period of submission of tender document- From 28.06.2022 to 12.07.2022 • Date & time of closing of Tender- 12.07.2022 at 15.00 hrs. • Date & time of opening of Tender - 12.07.2022 at 15.30 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railways IREPS website: **www.ireps.gov.in** in tender document. **Note- 1)** Tenderers shall be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Manual offers are not allowed for this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **2)** Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security Cost will be accepted separately, only online payment through net banking in favour of PFA/BLW/BSB of Gate Way Payment through IREPS Portal. Manual payment through demand draft, Bankers Check, Deposit Receipt & FDR etc. are not allowed.

PR/BLW/E-03
DEE/M, BLW/Varanasi

/blwvaranasi "Website: www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

M BG-802

Under lock-down: A view of the Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi . •RAJESH N

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Solving the Sterlite problem

The trust deficit between the plant's operator and the people of Thoothukudi needs to be bridged if the smelter has to restart

M. KALYANARAMAN

THE GIST

- Sterlite Copper of Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu has become a moral issue after the police firing on protesters resulted in the deaths of 13 people in May 2018 .
- Sterlite's product, copper, is a strategic metal. Important applications are energy, electrical equipment and electronics. Copper production provides strategic balance and price stability. The shuttering of the Sterlite plant quickly made India, a copper exporter, an importer.
- However, distrust of Sterlite is so much that many people now credit good rains to the shuttering of the plant. The community complains that Sterlite did not employ enough local people and did not give enough contracts for local businessmen. Therefore, the corporate group needs to act responsibly and take the people along with it if it wants to conduct its business.

In an unexpected announcement, Sterlite Copper, part of the Vedanta Group has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for its Thoothukudi based plant, which has been under lock and key since 2018. In this article dated January 24, 2022, M. Kalyanaraman talks about the need for the corporate group to bridge the trust deficit between them and the locals in order for the plant to function again.

Sterlite Copper of Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu has become a moral issue after the police firing on protesters resulted in the deaths of 13 people in May 2018 . Over some 20 years of plant operation, the company had violated many pollution regulations and faced at least two major allegations of excessive emissions. It also faced consistent protests against pollution from the plant. It had been ordered shut many times only to reopen and expand capacity.

Complaints against the plant

Residents around Sterlite say that when the plant was operating, there would be release of gas at 3 a.m. every day. They would wake up short of breath and to a foul smell. Even cattle were refusing to drink groundwater since it was contaminated by Sterlite effluents, they say. Now, the air is cleaner, they contend. The business community complains that Sterlite did not employ enough local people and did not give enough contracts for local businessmen. It was a high-handed management that talked down to them.

Though Sterlite has constructed toilets, water tanks and community centers, it has not invested much in serving the educational or health needs of the local population.

Distrust of Sterlite is so much that many people now credit good rains to the shuttering of the plant. During the 2018 protests, WhatsApp videos of a grieving widow of a cancer patient demanding shutting of Sterlite went viral. There has not been any study to link cancer with Sterlite emissions. But people were only eager to believe the talk. Sterlite representatives have faulted protesters for spreading rumours and serving hostile vested interests. But the company's record has not been above board. It is unapologetic about the 13 deaths in firing.

Sterlite's product, copper, is a strategic metal. Important applications are energy, electrical equipment and electronics. Nations are switching more and more to wind and solar. This means new projects and transmission lines. There is a push for electrical vehicles. Globally, and in India, copper demand is only set to ramp up. Imports can cause supply bottlenecks. End consumers such as electrical equipment manufacturers sometimes pay a high premium as a result.

There are more than 120 copper smelters across the world. All major copper-consuming countries have copper smelters within their country. Copper production provides strategic balance and price stability. The shuttering of the Sterlite plant quickly made India, a copper exporter, an importer. Domestic copper price is typically higher than the landed price of imported copper, increasing forex outgo. India now imports copper at the rate of 3 lakh of tonnes a year and the figure is only likely to grow. Volatile global copper prices are now at least 50% more than what they were when the plant shut.

A copper smelter would serve India well. The only other major smelter in India is Hindalco. Thousands of jobs were lost when Sterlite shut. Real estate and local businesses serving the employees were hit. Imports through the Thoothukudi port fell by 25% the year Sterlite was shut and have only slid further since then. The port lost some 120 calls of vessels every year carrying copper concentrate. Port dues, berth charges, wharfage, etc. took a hit. In 2018-19, the operating income of the port fell by 15% and operating surplus reduced by 20% compared to the previous year. Without Sterlite's copper exports, the port's container terminal has been struggling. The business of some 20 stevedores and 100 clearing and forwarding agents came to zero. On average, 5,000 lorry trips were needed to transport the concentrate import from each ship to the plant. A whole lorry ecosystem had developed in Thoothukudi sustaining thousands of families.

In 2020, the Madras High Court, while upholding the 2018 State government order closing the plant, said, "when economy is pitted against the environment, environment will reign supreme." Sterlite has gone on appeal to the Supreme Court.

An opportunity

While the economic and national interest case for a copper smelter is proven, the trust deficit between Vedanta and the people of Thoothukudi needs to be bridged if the smelter has to restart. The framework for a solution could focus on adherence to norms and creating harmony between the company, government and the people. Sterlite presents an opportunity for the people of Thoothukudi to move forward in national and local economic interest. It is an opportunity for a corporate group to act responsibly and take people along while conducting its business.

The process, however, needs someone who can help bridge the trust deficit. An assurance from him, her or an agency should guarantee any settlement. And it's not something governments can do.

M. Kalyanaraman is founding editor of inmathi.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

June 21 marks the longest day of the year for the Northern hemisphere. Called the summer solstice, it occurs when one of Earth's poles has its maximum tilt toward the Sun. Here is a general quiz on geography

1 What is the word used to describe a moment in time when the Sun crosses the Earth's equator, which is to say, appears directly above the equator?

2 The Tropic of Cancer is the most northerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead. Which is the highest mountain on or adjacent to the Tropic of Cancer?

3 These cycles describe the collective effects of changes in the Earth's movements on its climate over thousands of years. The term was coined and named after a Serbian geophysicist and astronomer. What is the term?

4 Which are the continents that the Tropic of Capricorn passes through?

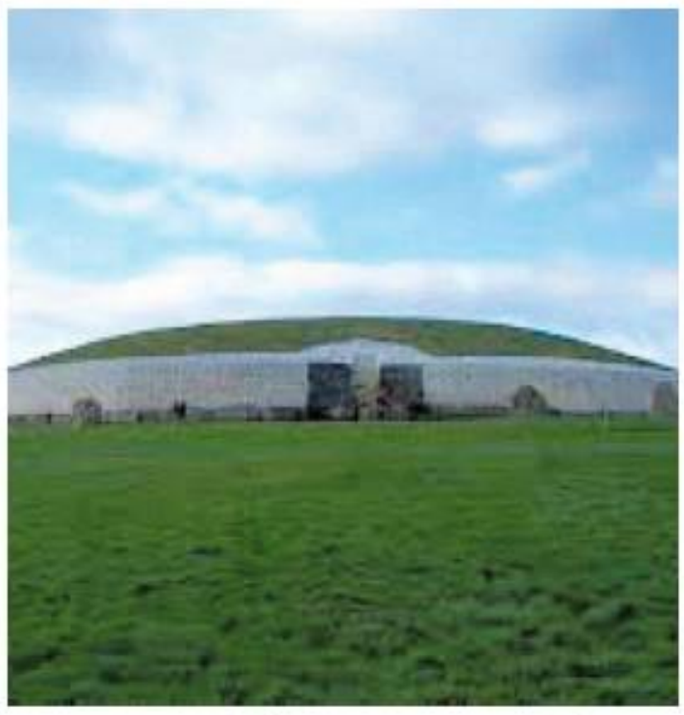
5 The Mahi River is the only river in India which crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice. Which are the two States where the river crosses the line?

6 There is a natural light display in the Earth's sky, predominantly seen in high-latitude regions (around the Arctic and Antarctic). What is it called? What is it named after?

7 This is the point on the Earth's surface at zero degrees latitude and zero degrees longitude (0°N 0°E), i.e., where the prime meridian and the equator intersect. Located in the Gulf of Guinea, what is this commonly called?

8 GMT is the mean solar time, counted from midnight. The term GMT is especially used by the United Kingdom bodies. What does GMT stand for?

Compiled by: Sindhu Nagaraj



◄ Identify this place and the phenomenon it is associated with.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The father of Shakespeare's Cordelia, Goneril and Regan. **Ans: King Lear**
2. The father this quote is talking about "It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived." **Ans: Atticus Finch**
3. The Jane Austen character who said "Let me not have the grief of seeing you unable to respect your partner in life". **Ans: Mr. Bennet**
4. This father screws the caps on to toothpaste tubes and appears in two novels by the same author. **Ans: William Bucket**
5. The title of Denethor. **Ans: Steward of Gondor**
6. This book often described as a father-son story has the famous line: "For you, a thousand times over". **Ans: *The Kite Runner***
Visual: The name of this film which is based on a short story. **Ans: *Kabuliwala***

Early Birds: Titiksha Dahraan| Sanjay Chandra| Roopa Srinivasan| Sindhu Dinesh| Adya Upasana Routray

KEYWORD

Dutch disease

How countries see uneven growth due to the sudden discovery of natural resources

SANAL. M. SUDEVAN

Dutch Disease in economics refers to a phenomenon wherein a country witnesses uneven growth across sectors due to the discovery of natural resources, especially large oil reserves. According to the concept, when a country discovers natural resources and starts exporting them to the rest of the world, it causes the exchange rate of the currency to appreciate significantly and this, in turn, discourages the exports from other sectors while encouraging the import of cheaper alternatives.

While the idea was first proposed by economists Peter Neary and Max Corden in 1982, the term 'Dutch disease' was first coined by *The Economist* in 1977 to describe the decline of the manufacturing industry in the Netherlands.

The origin of the term

In the 1960s, the Netherlands discovered gas reserves in the North Sea. The subsequent export of oil and the appreciation of the Dutch currency made Dutch exports of all non-oil products less competitive on the world market. Unemployment rose from 1.1% to 5.1% and capital investment in the country dropped. Following this, over the years, the country witnessed a downfall in the industrial sector.

According to a recent research paper titled "40 years of Dutch Disease literature: lessons for developing countries", by Edouard Mien and Michael Goujon, the framework of the model of the phenomenon is based on three sectors: energy (traditionally oil, gas or mining resources), tradeables, and non-tradeables of a small economy. As labour and capital are immobile internationally, the Dutch disease is a "purely domestic phenomenon" which cannot be "exported."

The model is concentrated on the spending and resource-movement effects. That is, exports of energy generate additional revenue for the factory owner and the government (through taxes), hence increasing the demand for tradeable and non-tradeable products in the country. The boom in the energy sector forces labour to move out of trade and service sectors, creating a shortage of manpower in these two sectors. This reduces the output in the trade and service sector due to the gap between supply and demand. At the end, output in the trade sector declines and the service sector stagnates, resulting in the downfall of the economy in the long-run.

However, there are theories that contradict this model. For instance, Fredrick van der Pleog in 2011 explained that if the trade or manufacturing sector is more capital-intensive than the service sector, then the boom in the energy sector will be shifted to the trade sector resulting in an absolute fall in the service sector.

How to combat the Dutch disease

Mien and Goujon also focus on what the developing resource-rich countries should do to avoid the occurrence of the Dutch disease.

First, the role of fiscal policy can prevent the adverse effects of Dutch disease. According to the researchers, the role of fiscal policy is important to control the boom following the discovery of natural resources. Rising income due to the export of natural resources should be adjusted with cautious spending on public welfare. The study focusses on the efficient use of revenues coming from taxation to compensate for the adverse effects of the Dutch disease.

The second important move is to promote spending policies. Public spending such as concentrating on imports of tradeables rather than non-tradeables would help slow the impact of the Dutch disease. Private spending in order to improve the productivity of private firms would also help reduce the impact.

Third is monetary policy. The choice of an appropriate monetary policy is important for macroeconomic management in commodity-exporting countries. With the discovery of natural resources, the country sees a huge inflow of money, especially foreign currency. The export of natural resources tends to affect the equilibrium in the money and exchange rate markets. The Dutch disease can be prevented if the central bank raises the banking system reserve's requirement, which decreases domestic credit.

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

June 21
2022
06.00 AM
Onwards

YOGA for Humanity

Yoga for Harmony & Peace

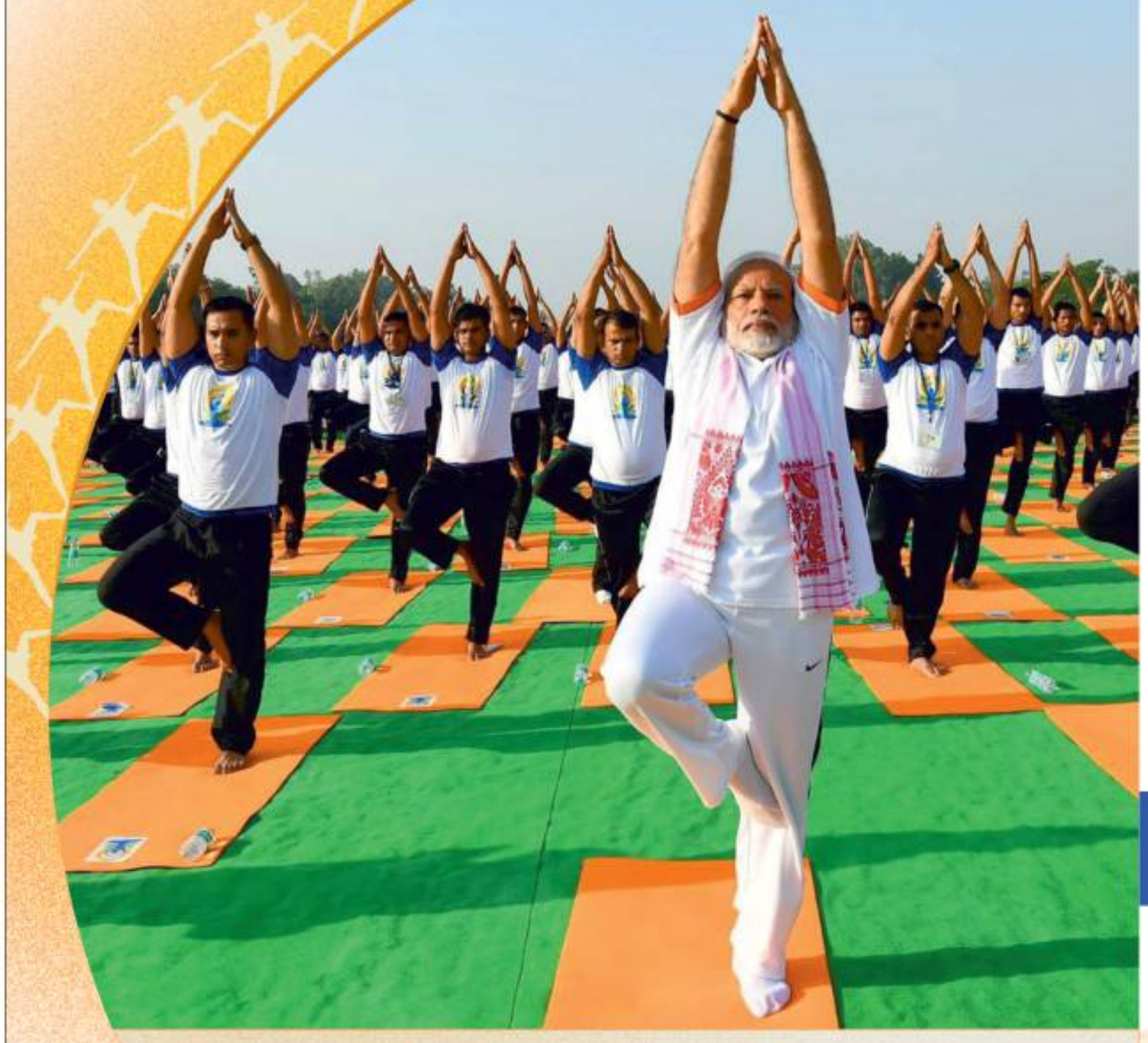
8th International Day of Yoga

Mass Yoga Demonstration
at Mysuru Palace, led by
Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi

Watch the main event live
on all DD Channels

"Yoga is an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action, restraint and fulfilment, harmony between man and nature and a holistic approach to health and well-being."

- PM Narendra Modi



Guardian Ring, a relay yoga streaming event, is the main attraction of this year's IDY. The process will string together video feed from different Indian missions across the world. It will showcase celebrations in **75 countries** with the movement of Sun in **16 time zones**, from east to west.

Celebrations in **75 iconic sites** across India as a part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

Exhibition at Dasara Ground, Mysuru, on June 21 & 22

- Digital Exhibition using latest interactive technologies to project efficacy of Yoga
- Static Exhibition, presenting the grandeur of Yoga, other Ayush streams, and Yoga Startups

Be a part of the global movement for
Health & Wellness through Yoga

In the august presence of

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Special Invitees

Shri Pralhad Joshi
Hon'ble Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines

Kum. Shobha Karandlaje
Hon'ble Union Minister for State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Shri A. Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Union Minister for State for Social Justice and Empowerment

Shri Bhagwanth Khuba
Hon'ble Union Minister for State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, New and Renewable Energy

Chief Guests

Shri R. Ashok
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue

Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N.
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT & BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood

Dr. K. Sudhakar
Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education

Shri S.T. Somashekar
Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation and Mysuru District Incharge

Shri V. Sunilkumar
Hon'ble Minister for Kannada & Culture and Energy

Shri Madhuswamy
Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Anand Singh
Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Ecology and Environment

Shri Kota Srinivas Poojari
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Backward Castes Welfare

Shri B.C. Nagesh
Hon'ble Minister for Primary & Secondary Education

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and Former Chief Minister

Shri Pratap Simha
Hon'ble MP Mysuru & Kodagu

Shri B.S. Yediyurappa
Former Chief Minister

All MLAs, MLCs of the District, and all elected representatives of all the urban local bodies will participate.

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 21	
RISE	05:55 SET 18:48
RISE	00:19 SET 12:32
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 22	
RISE	05:55 SET 18:48
RISE	00:57 SET 13:21
THURSDAY, JUN. 23	
RISE	05:55 SET 18:48
RISE	01:35 SET 14:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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Active cases: State records nearly 67% rise in one month

City continues to be the epicentre with nearly 96% of active COVID-19 cases

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

With a rise in new COVID-19 cases, the number of active cases in Karnataka have shot up by nearly 67% in the last one month. From 1,666 cases on May 20, active cases increased to 5,035 on June 19. However, the proportion of hospitalisations and deaths continues to remain low so far.

Bengaluru Urban continues to be the epicentre of COVID-19 in Karnataka. Nearly 96% of the total active cases are from the State capital. In the last one month, the daily incidence of new cases in Bengaluru Urban has risen from 89 (on May 20) to 588 on June 19.

Accordingly, active cases too shot up from 1,591 on May 20 to 4,833 on June 19. On June 20, active cases reduced marginally to 4,928 in the State, of which 4,723 are from Bengaluru Urban.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the third wave in Karnataka fell below the 50,000 mark on February 11 and further below the 20,000 mark on February 17 after hitting a peak of 3,62,487 cases on January 24. From March 20, active cases fell below 2,000 and were hovering around 1,800 till April 4 when the number further plummeted to 1,500.

Subsequently, active cases started rising but remained within 2,000 till May 30. With new cases also seeing a jump from within 200 till May end to above 600 now, active cases are increasing by the day.

As of Monday, 42 patients were admitted in hospitals and all of them are in Bengaluru. Except for nine patients (five in ICU and four in high dependency units in Bengaluru), all have occupied general wards in government hospitals. In the last one month, seven deaths have been reported in the State of which three are from Bengaluru.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the rise in active cases is in proportion to the average rise in daily new cases. "However, as the percentage of hospitalised patients to active cases is very low, the situation is not alarming and there is no reason to panic," he said.

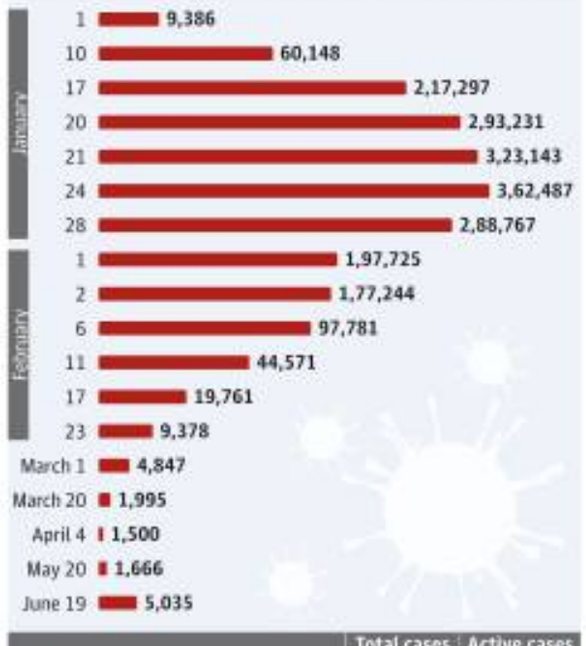
The Commissioner said he has already written to the Medical Education Secretary to earmark beds in Victoria Hospital and Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College Hospital and Research Institution.

M.K. Sudarshan, chairman of the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), said all prevailing conditions are conducive for a wave. "With resumption of international and domestic air/rail and road transport and all other commercial activities, movement of people is unhindered. However, people have become complacent and are not following protocols, including the basic wearing masks," he said.

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts Committee, said the situation is still not alarming as the doubling rate of new COVID-19 cases is low.

"It is important that people do not become complacent now. Masking up is essential. But it is unfortunate that people are not wearing masks even in public rallies," he added.

Rise and fall of active cases in third wave



	Total cases	Active cases
First wave active case peak on October 10, 2020	7,00,786	1,20,270
Second wave active case peak on May 15, 2021	21,71,931	6,05,494
Third wave active case peak on January 24, 2022	35,64,108	3,62,487

State reports 530 new cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Monday saw 530 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,61,361. With this the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 3.59% and the weekly TPR touched 3.07%.

Of the new cases, 494 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,071. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded. As many as 637 persons were discharged on Monday taking the total recoveries to 39,16,320. Active cases that rose to 5,035 on Sunday marginally reduced to 4,928 on Monday.

As many as 14,753 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 11,759 RT-PCR tests.

HC: Persons aspiring for public employment need to be above board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

FROM THE COURT

Observing that those aspiring for public employment need to be above board, the High Court of Karnataka has rejected the pleas of two persons who were removed from the zone of eligible candidates by the Indian Railways after an enquiry found their alleged involvement in the malpractices during the recruitment process.

"It hardly needs to be stated that in public recruitments, persons participating in the process with unclean hands cannot be favoured, especially when untainted lot is available in the open market," the court observed.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice P. Krishna Bhat, made these observations while dismissing petitions filed by Rajesh G. and Prakash V.G, both hailing from Hubballi.

The petitioners questioned the 2019 order passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal, which had refused to interfere with the decision of the Railway Recruitment Cell not to consider them to the selection even though they were found qualified and passed even in the medical examination for the posts of Group-D prior to the outcome of an enquiry.

The Railways, in 2015, wrote to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct an enquiry following allegations of rampant malpractices during the recruitment process, commenced in 2013.

In the enquiry report, the CBI had said that petitioners were guilty of allegation of malpractices as they were among the recipients of answers of written examination through SMSs from the main conspirators of malpractices.

Following this, the petitioners were discontinued from the recruitment process.

The petitioners had questioned the legality of the enquiry while contending that such an enquiry on recruitment process could not have entrusted to the CBI as per the rules governing recruitment process.

However, the Bench observed that "the employing agencies cannot be faltered when they cause some reasonable enquiry when shady deals do occur in the recruitment process, malpractice in the examination being one of them."

The Bench declined to interfere with the tribunal's order while observing that "where some reasonable enquiry is made by an expert agency like CBI and it reveals malpractice a *prima facie* attributable to some of the candidates, it is not desirable that they should be inducted into public service."

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www.thehindu.com

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A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 21, Tuesday), the following explainers are available:

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka One state. Many worlds. www.karnatakatourism.org
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Yoga for Humanity. International Day of Yoga - 2022

Sri Basavaraja S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

wake up. rise up. step up.

Let's roll out the welcome mat to well-being, India.

Mysuru, one of the foremost centers of yoga in India,
21st June 2022 at 7.00am at **Mysuru Palace Ground**
Thousands of people participating in the International Day of Yoga for Yoga Practice.

The International Day of Yoga will also be celebrated at Hampi, Pattadakallu, Gol Gumbaz (Vijayapura) and Halebeedu. Let's join hands for a better, healthier tomorrow. All are welcome.

Sri Anand Singh, Hon. Minister for Tourism, Environment & Ecology participating in a Yoga session.

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KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
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Telefax : 080-22024000 email : cekrdcl@gmail.com

No. KRDCL/IFB/2022-23/05 Date : 20.06.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Tender has been invited for appointment of Consultancy Services for Project Management, Construction, Supervision and Quality Control for the work of Construction of Bridge across Sharavathi river on Honnavara-Mavinakurve Road in Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada (Karwar) District on QCBS basis. Interested Consultants can participate through e-procurement portal and documents can be downloaded from website: **http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. The last date for receipt of tender is on **04.07.2022 upto 17.30 hours** and Technical bids will be opened on **06.07.2022 at 11.00 hours.**

Note: Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News Papers and further changes if any, will be updated only on e-portal / KRDCL Website : http://www.krdcl.in

DIPR/CP/Sevaha/897/2022-23 **Sd/- Chief Engineer KRDCL, Bengaluru**

TUNGABHADRA BOARD : TB DAM

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice
IFB Nos. 50 & 51/2022-23 Dt. 20-06-2022 and 33 & 37/2022-23 (2nd Call) Dt. 07-06-2022

Tender for total 04 Nos. of Works under various categories are invited in respect of LLC Division, Ballari and HW & HLC Division, TB Dam through' e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	**21.06.2022 at 11.00 AM**
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	**27.06.2022 at 3.00 PM**
Bid Submission End Date & Time :	**27.06.2022 at 5.30 PM**
Date of opening of PQ Stage: **(For IFB Nos.50 & 51)**	**27.06.2022 at 6.00 PM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage* **(For IFB Nos.50)**	**29.06.2022 at 11.00 AM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage **(for IFB Nos.51)**	**28.06.2022 at 6.00 PM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage : **(For IFB Nos.33 & 37)**	**27.06.2022 at 6.00 PM**
Date of opening of TQ Stage : **(For IFB Nos.50)**	**29.06.2022 at 3.00 PM**

Further details can be seen @ **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
* Commencement of Reverse Tendering

✆ : 08394 - 259114
Fax : 08394 - 259167

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

Government of Karnataka

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S.Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bangalore - 560070.

No. EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/09/2022-23 Date: 17.06.2022

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, **For MLA Grants Works**. The work details can obtained from the e-procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated:**06.07.2022 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.R.E.D, B.U, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/882/Zenkar/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001.
Ph: 080-2558 6520 /2558 9112, Fax: 080-2558 6321.
Email: ho@kspcb.gov.in Website: www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/49/BLD/2022-23/1604 Dated: 31/05/2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER
1st CALL
(Through GOK e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: House Keeping (AMC) to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board RSEO and RO Building at CA site No.C-1421, Suryanagara 2nd phase, Sector-II, Anekal (T), Bengaluru (1 year). Approx Value of the work: **Rs.15.72 Lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement web site: **http:// www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

"AVOID USE OF PLASTICS - BE 'ECO' FRIENDLY"

DIPR/CP/886/GREENFMC/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE BANGALORE
P & S C NO.142 / 2022 (CCH-66)

BETWEEN : 1. Dr. Prema Ramaswamy, aged 57 years, W/o.Sanjeev Dheer, Residing at 22, Murray Hill Road, Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583 United States of America **2). Madhusudan Ramaswamy,** aged about 50 years, S/o Late Brigadier Ramaswamy, Residing at 2416 S Voss Road, Apt K.322, Houston, TX, 77057, United states of America. **3). Deepa Ramaswamy,** aged about 53 years, W/o. Michael Tiller, Residing 49374 Manhattan Circle, Canton, MI 48188, United states of America. ...Petitioners
AND : NIL ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above petitioners have filed a petition under section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 Praying for grant of secession certificate in the name of petitioners 1, 2, and 3 herein to negotiate, endorse, liquidate, transfer and in any manner transact the amounts from the bank accounts held by late Mr. Brig. Balakrishna Ramaswamy, as Detailed in the Schedule Hereunder.

The petitioners above named submit that they are the only surviving class -1 legal heirs of Late Brigadier shri Balakrishna Ramaswamy.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **04-07-2022 at 11. a.m.** to show cause against the petition failing which the matter will be heard and determined.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl No	Bank	Account Number	Account Type	Bank IFSC	Address and Contact Info	Amount
1.	Indian Overseas Bank	223010000008985	Savings	IOBA0003223	Site 162, Opp. MES Collefe, Malleshwara, (W), Bangalore, Bangalore South, Karnataka - 560055	23,98,388.60
2.	State Bank of India	00000054019856453	Savings	SBIN0041194	Vijaya Bank Layout	1,33,634.72
3.	State Bank of India	64156802436	NRO Savings	SBIN0041194	Vijaya Bank Layout	9,66,370.10
4.	State Bank of India	64019867552				66,27,400
5.	South Indian Bank	493053000000784	Savings	SIBL0000493	St. Josephs Institutional Complex, Temple Road, Jayalakshmipuram PO Mysore Karnataka Ph: 08212510284	58,647.06
6.	South Indian Bank		Fixed Deposits	SIBL0000493		1,00,000
	Grand Total					1,02,04,420

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this the **14th day of June 2022**

Address for Service
SRI. S. GURU PRASANNA, SMT. PRIYANKA ANGADI,
No.28, 5th Cross, 8th Main, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore - 560052, PH: 91 9902025246.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar City Civil Court, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC is hereby notified that our clients propose to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **Sri. M. SHIVARAJU**, S/o late Sri. Marappa, residing at: C/o Sadashiva Shetti, 'Prashanth Nilaya', Near Lakshmi Theatre, Anekal Town, who has represented that he acquired ownership and possession to the Schedule Property in terms of a Gift Deed dated 21/08/2008, registered as Document No.JGN-1-01570/2008-09, in Book-I, and stored in C.D. No. JGND29 in the Office of Sub-Registrar Jigani, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the said Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/ objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that agricultural lands detailed below situated at Vabasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District **1. Sy. No. 30/5, Extent** 3 Guntas **Boundaries, East:** Sy. No. 30/3 of A.Joseph; **West:** Sy. No. 29/2 of Kempaiah; **North:** Sy. No. 30/4 of Krishnappa and **South:** Sy. No. 30/6 of Venkatappa.

2. Sy. No. 29/612 Guntas. **Boundaries, East:** Sy.No.30/4 of Krishnappa; **West:** Sy.No.40/2 of Amaranarayana; **North:** Sy.No.29/6 of Lakshmamma and **South:** Sy.No.29/4 of Kempaiah.

YASEEN BABU,
K.M. LEGAL ADVOCATES,
No.1C, 'WILDCRISA', # 14, Rest House Crescent Road, BANGALORE-5600 01.
Phone No:080-25592786.
Email: kmlegaladvocates@gmail.com
Date: 20/06/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC that our clients propose to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **Sri. KRISHNAPPA** S/o Late Sri. Ramaiah and others, residing at No.45, Kyalasanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-530105, who have represented that they succeeded to the Schedule by way of inheritance. Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the said Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **Fifteen days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land available within four boundaries measuring 39 Guntas in Sy.No.31/4 of Vabasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the **East:** Land of Venkatappa; **West:** Private Land; **North:** Land of Yellappa and Ramappa; **South:** Private Property.

YASEEN BABU,
K.M. LEGAL ADVOCATES,
No.1C, 'WILDCRISA', # 14, Rest House Crescent Road, BANGALORE-5600 01.
Tel:-080-25592786.
Email:kmlegaladvocates@gmail.com
Date: 20/06/2022

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

6th Death Rememberance

Late Mrs.Anupama Vasant,
Ex HOD - GSV Bidar
DOB: 20-04-1968 - DOD: 21-06-2016
Life has never been the same & normal since you left us.
Bereaving
Dr Satyendra, Dr Ishan, Dr Shilpa, Abhigyan, Swati, Shubhangi

DDPI & EX-OFFICIO, DISTRICT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, Samagra Shiksha Karnataka , Bidar.

Providing, Supplying and installation of Lap-top, Projector with screen, All in One Computer (A.I.O) and 2K.V Capacity UPS (with Batteries) to 08 Govt. Schools in Bidar District.

Re-Call

1) Short Term Tender and reference No.: DDPI/DPO/SSK/E-PROC/E-TENDER/ICT/DI/Re-call /2021 Date: 18-06 - 2022, 2) Last Date for filing tender date and time : Date: 27-06-2022, at 17.30, 3) Opening of Technical Bid and Time : Date: 29-06-2022 11:30 A.M, 4) Opening of financial Bid and Timing : Tentative, 5) Tender Value / Contract value : Value Rs. 51,20,000/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Twenty Thousand only), 6) E.M.D Payable Date 1,28,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand only), 7) Tender accepting Authority DDPI & Ex-Officio, District Project Co-coordinator, Samagra Shiksha Karnataka, Bidar, has the right to accept or reject the tender. 8) Address for correspondence : Dr, T.R.Dodde, DYPC., SSK-Bidar, Mob: 9448999388, Office Land line : 08482-233136

Sd/- DDPI & Ex-Officio, District Project Co-ordinator, Samagra Shiksha Karnataka, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/106/MC&A/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಲೋಇಪಾವಿಸಿವಿ:ಕೆಡ್ಯೂ:2022–23/864 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18–06–2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ/ಡಬ್ಲೂ–1,2,3,4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಐಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: 148682, 146433, 148855, 148856, 148857, 152262, 148685, 148686, 148688, 148689, 148690, 148691, 148692, 148693, 148694, 148858, 151356, 151355, 152258, 134207 ಖಲ್-3, 141361, 140195, 140208, 138283 ಖಲ್-3, 151097, 151439, 150125, 151438, 152391, 152393 152263, 150163, 147930. 151709, 151708, 152374, 152121, 152795, 153341, 152765, 152693, 152427, 151706, 149330, 149335, 153131, 153336, 153337, 153343, 153345, 153346, 153486**
ಎಸ್.ಸಿ: 151353

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗುಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ **1300.00**ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.**12.35** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ)	ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **28–06–2022** ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **11–30** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30–06–2022** ಸಂಜೆ **5–30** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಕ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **01–07–2022** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **4–00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಡ)	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02–07–2022** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **4–30** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ)	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **04–07–2022** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **4–30**ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ.

ಪ.ಪ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/166/2022–23/ಟೆಂಡರ್ಆಯ್ಕೆಪಟ್ಟಿ

ಕೋವಿಡ್–19, ಜಾಗರೂಕತೆ ಬೇಕು: ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ
ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division, Mandya division, Mandya-571401. email: eemimandya@gmail.com

No.EE/Mandya/Tec Sec/Notification /2022-23/489 Date :16.06.2022

Tender Extension Notification-1 Date : 16-06-2022

Subject : This office tender notification No : 01/2022-23, Date : 22-04-2022

With reference to this office Tender Notification number 01/2022-23 Dated 22.04.2022 the Work pertaining to Head of Account 4702 MOT- 06 Nos (Sl.No:01 to 06), 4702 Anekat and pickup- 02 Nos (Sl.No 1 & 2) and under head of account 4702 LIS -03 Nos of work (Si.No 01 to 03) has been postponed due to technical reasons for the works in the above tender notification under Head of Account 4702 MOT- 02 Nos (Sl.No:03 and 05), 4702 Anekat and pickup- 01 Nos (Sl.No.1) as below.

Sl No	Subject	As Mentioned Previously	Extended Dated
1	Information regarding tender will be available at this office	02.05.2022 office hours	30.06.2022 office hours
2	Last date of receipt of tender in e-procurement	04.05.2022 17.00 hours	04.07.2022 17.00 hours
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid	06.05.2022 11.00 hours	06.07.2022 11-00 hours
4	Dated of opening of Financial Bid	09.05.2022 11.00 hours	08.07.2022 11-00 hours

In continuation With reference to this office Tender Notification number 01/2022-23 Dated 22.04.2022 the Work pertaining to Head of Account 4702 MOT- 06 Nos (Sl.No:01 to 06), 4702 Anekat and pickup- 02 Nos (Sl.No 1 & 2) and under head of account 4702 LIS -03 Nos of work (Si.No 01 to 03) has been postponed due to technical reasons for the works in the above tender notification under Head of Account 4702 MOT- 02 Nos (Sl.No:06), 4702 Anekat and pickup- 01 Nos (Sl.No.2) as below.

Sl No	Subject	As Mentioned Previously	Extended Dated
1	Information regarding tender will be available at this office	02.05.2022 office hours	24.06.2022 office hours
2	Last date of receipt of tender in e-procurement	04.05.2022 17.00 hours	27.06.2022 17.00 hours
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid	06.05.2022 11.00 hours	29.06.2022 11-00 hours
4	Dated of opening of Financial Bid	09.05.2022 11.00 hours	01.07.2022 11-00 hours

There will be no changes in the original tender notification and all the information regarding work is published in the "**www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**" tender Portal.
special Note: Any correctgions regarding this tender notification will be published only in the "e-Procurement" portal.

DIPR/AD-MDY/MC&A/05/2022-23 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya.**

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PERSONAL

THANKSGIVING

MOST LOVING protector, St. Anthony, what gift can I give you in exchange to show my heartfelt gratitude? With your continued help I will show appreciation to you by being more faithful to God, more constant in prayer, and readier to do good to those nearest me...May these intentions convey my great thanks to the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to our blessed Lady, Queen of heaven and earth. Geetha M P

NOVENA PRAYER To St Jude O Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the dept of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power, come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent petition, in return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St Jude, Pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Thanksgiving. Meera Manoj

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TANUJA Priya R/at Gangothri Palm Grove, Flat no. 404, 4th floor 11th cross 22th A main Padmanabhanagar Bengaluru-70 have changed my daughter's name from Dithi Abigail Santhosh to Dhiti Abigail Santhosh vide affidavit 18/06/2022 before notary B K R Krishnamurthy, Bengaluru-09.

I, SETHU Parvathi Seetharaman, aged 70 yrs, W/o Gopalakrishnan.L, R/o #2971, Touchstone, 4th Cross, 12th Main, Near Sagar Clinic, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560038 have changed my name from Sethu Parvathi Seetharaman to Dr. S.Parvathi Gopal vide affidavit dt: 20-06-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

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Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.R.E. DIVISION BIDAR.

No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-3/2022-23/629 Date: 17-06-2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 07 works approved under 5054 schemes as per KW-01, 02 and 04 in One and Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum Rs. 7,64,362.79 (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Two and paise seventy nine only) & Maximum Rs. 3,21,50,257.99 (Rupees Three Crore Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven and paise ninety nine only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Tenders must be submitted through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours up to 16.07.2022. Technical Bid will be opened on 18.07.2022 & Financial Bid will be opened on 22.07.2022 respectively. Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned.

DIPR/Bidar/108/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bidar.**

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari

Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com elephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-3/2022-23/1303 Dated : 16-06-2022

Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through e-procurement portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site http://eproc. karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours. **TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	KPWD/2021-22/IW/WORK_INDENT151213/CALL-2	300.00
2)	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT152984	175.00
3)	KPWD/2020-21/BD/WORK_INDENT135295	299.00
4)	KPWD/2021-22/BD/WORK_INDENT149823	110.00
5)	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT152189	110.00
6)	KPWD/2021-22/RD/WORK_INDENT142447/CALL-3	60.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in e_Procurement Portal.

1) Venue, Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting for the work of Sl No.(01) to (03): **20-06-2022 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.** 2) Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal: **24-06-2022 upto 12.00 Hours.** 3) Last date for submission of tenders through e-procurement portal: **30-06-2022 upto 16.00 Hours.** 4) Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **01-07-2022 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/163/MCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Phone: 080-22265383 Website: www.kiadb.in

No. : IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-01/4647/2022-23 Date: 18.06.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES

(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following works **(1)** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout including formation of 24m, 18m & 15m wide roads including asphalting, Construction of RCC side drains, RCC Cross drainage work & HDPE Dual water supply pipe line of Ganjur Block for Koluru Ganajuru Industrial Area, Haveri Taluk, Haveri District. **(2)** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout including Formation of 18m wide roads & 15m wide roads including asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Sump, OHT, Rising Main, Bore Well, RWH & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line at Koluru Block for Koluru Ganajuru Industrial Area, Haveri Taluk, Haveri District. **(3)** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout including formation of 30m wide road, 18m wide road including Asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, RCC Culverts, Rain Water Harvesting, HDPE Dual water supply pipe line etc,. of Yarehalli Block for Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara District. **(4)** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout including formation of 18m wide Road, Service road including Asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, RCC culverts, Rain water harvesting, HDPE Dual water supply pipe line etc., of EV Units Block for Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara District. **(5)** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout including formation of 30m wide Road, 18m wide road including Asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, RCC Culverts, HDPE Dual water supply pipe line etc., of Kanchugaranahalli Block for Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara District. **(6)** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout including formation of 30m wide Road, 18m wide road including Asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, RCC Culverts, Rainwater Harvesting, HDPE Dual water supply pipe line etc., of Kanchugaranahalli Kaval Block for Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: **12.07.2022 up to 4:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER-1, KIADB, BENGALURU

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Bengaluru South	Hubballi	Ballari	Mysuru	Davangere
2nd July 2022 **NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium**, 22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru	**2nd July 2022** **K. L. E Societys Bio Technology Auditorium**, B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar	**3rd July 2022** **BPSC Pre University College** Ananthapuru Road, Ballari	**3rd July 2022** **Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering** P.B. No.206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru	**3rd July 2022** **BAPUJI B School** BAPUJI MBA College, Lake View Campus, S S Layout, Davanagere

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Prominent projects for which foundation stone was laid by PM

Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project
₹15,767 crore

Redevelopment of the Yeshwantpur station
₹400 crore

Redevelopment of Bengaluru Cantonment station
₹470 crore

NHAI projects estimated to cost ₹7,300 crore

- Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road Project
- Upgradation of Madhugiri-Gauribidanur-Chickballpur section of NH 69
- Punjalkatte to Charmadi section of NH 73
- Six-lane widening of Nelamangala-Tumakuru stretch of NH 48
- Multi Modal logistic park ₹1,800 crore
- Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital at IISc, Bengaluru ₹425 crore

Projects that were inaugurated

Electrification of Konkan Railway ₹1,287 crore	Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal Baiyappanahalli ₹314 crore	Doubling of Arsikere-Tumakuru track ₹758 crore	Doubling of Yelahanka-Penukonda track ₹1,104 crore

Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University campus ₹201 crore

Centre for Brain Research at IISc Bengaluru ₹280 crore

Modi push for slew of mobility projects

Prime Minister sends out political message with BBMP elections round the corner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, laying the foundation for a slew of mobility projects, sent out a political message as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections are nearing. He hit out at the Opposition parties saying that both the State and Central governments had now taken up the projects that were "not moving" for 40 years.

Prominent among the projects that received a fillip were the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) and Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road Project. The suburban rail project is a decades-old project. A joint venture of the State government and Railway Board, KRIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd.) is implementing the 148 km project. In the first phase, the KRIDE has taken up Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara corridor for implementation. A deadline of six years has been fixed to complete all the four corridors.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, and Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, at a public programme in Bengaluru on Monday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Rail activist Sanjeev Dyamannavar said the Prime Minister laying the foundation is a much needed push for the project. "Barring CBD areas such as Majestic to Cantonment, Majestic towards Yeshwantpur and others , implementing the suburban rail project is unlikely to create much hurdle. A majority of the land required for the project is already available for the project. All that is required is regular monitoring of the project at the highest level and clearing bureaucratic hurdles. Meanwhile, KRIDE should take necessary steps to float tenders of other corridors," he said.

Mr. Modi also laid the foundation for a highway project that is part of the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road Project (STTR). The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which is implementing the project, will build a road from Hoskote to the Tamil Nadu border. The authority has already taken up the construction work from Dabaspet to Hoskote for a stretch of 87 km, an official said.

The total length of the STTR project is 280 km and connects important towns such as Dobbspet, Doddaballapur, Devenahall, Hoskote, Anekal, Ramanagaram, and Magadi.

A senior official of the NHAI said: "The project is aimed at decongesting the traffic in the city limits as more than eight National and State highways pass through Bengaluru. Once the STTR projects get implemented, motorists will be able to reach destinations without hitting city roads. This will help reduce congestion to a great extent. "

Besides these two big projects, the Prime Minister also inaugurated a number of railway and road projects.

PM lauds pvt. enterprise after visit to IISc. research centres

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held out Bengaluru as a shining example of the contributions of the private sector to the development of the country.

Mr. Modi's pat on the back for the private sector came hours after he inaugurated the campus of Centre for Brain Research (CBR) and laid the foundation stone for the 832-bed Bagchi-Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital on the campus of Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) on Monday. Both projects are philanthropic initiatives in collaboration with IISc.

The Bagchi-Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital and the IISc. Medical College, was made possible by the single-largest donation of ₹425 crore by philanthropist couples Susmita and Subroto Bagchi, and Radha and N.S. Parthasarathy, collectively. The medical college and hospital will be on the lines of global examples of integrating science, engineering, and medicine, giving a boost for clinical research.

"At a time when every nation must give topmost importance to healthcare, efforts like the Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital assume great importance. In the times to come, it will strengthen healthcare capacities and encourage pioneering research in the sector," Mr. Modi tweeted after laying the foundation stone for the project at IISc.

Mr. Modi also inaugurated the campus of CBR developed at a cost of ₹280 crore, again made possible by the philanthropy of Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan. The centre has been developed into one-of-its-kind research facility focusing on conducting vital research to manage age-related brain disorders. Mr. Modi said the joy of inaugurating CBR was greater as he had also laid the foundation stone for the project,on February 18, 2015.

In his speech later, he said: "Bengaluru has shown what Indian youth can do if the government provides facilities and doesn't interfere in the lives of citizens." He said behind it were entrepreneurship, innovation, proper utility of public as well as private sector. He said 21st century India belonged to wealth creators, job creators, and innovators and Bengaluru was a lesson to all those who still disrespected the spirit of private enterprise.

SNIPPETS

Lost in translation

MYSURU

At Mysuru, in the interaction with beneficiaries, with all speaking in Kannada and the officials translating the same in Hindi to the Prime Minister, a beneficiary's complaint about easy availability of plastic flowers in the market affecting farmers who grow fresh ornamental flowers was lost in translation. Sandeep, a farmer from Malavalli in Mandya, said he grows the Gerbera variety of flowers used for ornamental purposes. But, the easy availability of imported plastic synthetic flowers had hit farmers growing ornamental flowers. Mr. Sandeep's complaint against plastic flowers was, however, not translated into Hindi.

Awash with banners

BENGALURU

The main roads leading to the Kommaghatta ground where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to address a public programme was awash with posters, banners and buntings. They were seen nearly for five km from the venue. In Kengeri, the posters put up by Housing Minister V. Somanna were hard to miss as pictures of his son were seen along with him. Hours before the commencement of Mr. Modi's programme on Kommaghatta grounds, security and traffic restrictions were put in place.

Traditional petas

BENGALURU

It was a day of traditional petas (turbans) for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Karnataka. While he was honoured with a decorated peta at the public programme in Kengeri, he was honoured with a Mysuru royal peta in one of the programmes of Mysuru. In another event at JSS Mutt, he was honoured with a typical Mysuru peta.

Greetings in Kannada

BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wooed the people of Karnataka by beginning his speeches in Kannada at all the public programmes addressed by him in Bengaluru and Mysuru on Monday. *"Karunada janatege nana namaskaragalu. Bengalurina Mahajanathege visheshavada namaskaragalu,"* he said in Bengaluru.

Not one to back out

MYSURU

At the public function in Mysuru, while Pratap Simha, MP, shared the row with the Prime Minister and was beaming, S.A. Ramdas, MLA, had to be content with the second row. But not one to take things lying down, Mr. Ramdas walked up to Mr. Modi, and in full public view prostrated to the point of seeking his blessings. An amused Mr. Modi patted his back to the cheer of the crowd, and it bought back the smile on Mr. Ramdas's face.

VIP visit

(First row) Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to supporters during his visit to Bengaluru on Monday; Mr. Modi being welcomed by former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai; **(second row)** at Sri Chamundeshwari temple on Chamundi Hills; heavy traffic on Mysuru Road; **(third row)** the crowd listening to Mr. Modi speaking at a public programme in Kommaghatta grounds near Kengeri, off Mysuru Road; shops were closed and roads barricaded in and around Mysuru road on Monday. •K. MURALI KUMAR & PTI

'Will you stitch my kurta?'

Modi interacts with beneficiaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Ambika, a resident of Basappana Doddi in Chamarajanagar district's Hanur taluk, who had taken a loan under Government of India's Mudra scheme to set up a tailoring unit, was stumped when Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked her if she can stitch his kurta.

"Will you stitch my kurta?" a smiling Mr. Modi asked on a lighter note after hearing out Ms. Ambika during an interaction he had with beneficiaries of various Central government schemes in Mysuru on Monday. Ms. Ambika, who was caught off-guard, quickly gathered herself and said she would be thrilled to stitch the Prime Minister's kurta.

Ms. Ambika, who studied up to II PU, set up the tailoring unit along with her husband in the village. Not anticipating Mr. Modi to be informal during the interaction, she remarked that she will not forget the day when she came face to face with the country's Prime Minister.

Mr. Modi even surprised Yashodha Suresh, a resident of Uddinamalahosur in Mandya district's K.R. Pet taluk, when, in another light-hearted comment, asked her if she would prepare food for him if he comes to her house.

Ms. Suresh was a beneficiary of the Prime Minister's Awas Scheme for housing. She said was residing in an old dilapidated house, but had now shifted to the new house allotted under the Central government scheme.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with beneficiaries of various Central government projects in Mysuru on Monday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Replying to Mr. Modi's queries, she said her house has a toilet, electricity, and water connection. Mr. Modi also asked if guests come to her new house and if she had to prepare food for them. When she replied in the affirmative, the Prime Minister asked her if she would prepare food if he comes to her house.

About 15 beneficiaries of various government schemes hailing from Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Mandya, and Hassan interacted with the Prime Minister just before he addressed a public gathering at Maharaja's College grounds.

Some of the beneficiaries said they had benefited from multiple schemes of the Central government.

Shops shut; security in place

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A high alert was sounded in Bengaluru with over 10,000 police personnel deployed to provide security cover to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

Police were deployed at every three metres along the route of Mr. Modi's convoy. Barricades were put up alongside as a lot of people, especially BJP workers and Mr. Modi's supporters, turned up to welcome the Prime Minister.

Police platoons were deployed at various junctions to break up protests. Traffic police restricted vehicle movement on the route of the convoy, and some shops were shut down. Vehicle movement in the IISc. and Bangalore University campus was banned. People visiting the universities were told to carry IDs and invitations.

FROM PAGE ONE

Will complete suburban rail project in 40 months: PM

At Mysuru too, he took a dig at the previous UPA government at the Centre and the successive Congress governments in the State. He said that development works had been fast tracked in Karnataka under the "double engine" government of BJP. He claimed that after 2014, the government not only fast tracked the projects but also delivery mechanism.

Inspiration for others

At the Bengaluru public rally, the Prime Minister showered rich praises on the city, and said "Bengaluru's success story has inspired 21st century India to become Atma Nirbhar Bharat. This city has shown to what level youth and private sector can impact the society and take the country if given an opportunity to show their potential in entrepreneurship and innovation."

He said during the pandemic, youth sitting in Bengaluru had helped the entire world. "Bengaluru is a city of dreams. Behind these dreams, there is innovation, entrepreneurship and proper utilisation of private sector along with public sector," he observed.

BASE campus inaugurated

Congress says it was opened in 2017 and already functional

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru (BASE), unveiling a 22-feet bronze statue of Dr. Ambedkar. The campus has 13 blocks newly built at a cost of ₹250 crore on the 43.45-acre campus on Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University.

This prompted the Opposition Congress to ask why the BJP was claiming credit for the former's flagship project, established in 2017.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah recounted that BASE was established in 2017 and then President of India Pranab Mukherjee had laid the foundation stone for the school. The project was completed in record six months and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated BASE also in 2017. However, he wished the best for the inauguration of the new campus.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the new campus of BASE University in Bengaluru. • PTI

Former Minister Priyank Kharge, who claimed building BASE to commemorate Dr. Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary was his brainchild, said: "Why would the Prime Minister inaugurate an already semi-functional campus with three batches of graduates having already graduated?" tweeted. "Have we achieved what we intended to? Not really, a far cry from it. The current Govt has not understood its potential and is running it like an ordinary college. BASE has immense potential to grow as an international institution for economic, social and political studies," he tweeted.

ITI training

Mr. Modi also dedicated 150 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) in the State which have been upgraded as Technology Hubs in collaboration with TATA Group under Udyoga Programme at a cost of ₹4,736 crore. The programme will train 1.2 lakh ITI students, who are industry ready, every year.

Modi ignored State's interest in banking, GST: Siddaramaiah

Former CM terms Centre's contribution to State 'disappointing'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

On the first day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka on Monday, Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah lashed out at him for "ignoring" the State's interest in banking, infrastructure development, farming, and release of funds under GST and the 15h Finance Commission..

The former Chief Minister termed as "disappointing" the Centre's contribution to the State under various schemes. The merger four nationalised banks originated in the State, causing loss of jobs to Kannadigas, he said and termed it "a big insult to the State." Corporation Bank, SyndicateBank, Vijaya Bank and State Bank of Mysore had been merged with other national banks more than a year ago.

Siddaramaiah

The Congress leader said that the Centre collected ₹19 lakh crore in the form of taxes from the State, but returned only ₹2.14 lakh crore. If the Centre had given 42% the amount, it would have been at ₹8 crore, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The suburban rail project was a long pendine one and it was under discussion during his tenure as the Chief Minister, Mr Siddaraiah said, and criticised Mr Modi, who came to the State after a gap of two years, for laying the foundation stone for the project now. The Congress leader, who has been opposing the questioning of his party MP Rahul Gandhi for his alleged role in money laundering with regard to the National Herald case calling it vendetta politics, questioned Mr Modi's silence on corruption charges against the State government. "The government is submerged in scams," he alleged.

On Agnipath

Mr. Siddaramaiah also opposed the Agnipath scheme of the Centre and said the scheme would render many jobless after four years. The NDA government was firm on implementing the scheme despite protests across the north Indian States and Congress supports the protest against, though not violence associated with it, he said.

IN BRIEF

Protest continues at Rajiv Gandhi varsity

NIRMAL

With the students' sit-in at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies at Basar in Telangana entering the seventh day on Monday, the authorities have stepped up efforts to address their demands. Students have been boycotting classes in pursuit of their 12-point charter of demands, including provision of basic amenities, laptops, upgrading of library and appointment of a regular Vice-Chancellor for the university.

Why memory card be sent for examination, asks HC

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday asked the prosecution why should the memory card containing the visuals of the 2017 sexual attack on the actor be sent for forensic examination, especially when the forensic report produced by the prosecution itself stated that there was no change in the hash value of the eight video files inside the card. The court noted that the hash value of the memory card was only changed while the hash value of the video recording was found to be the same.

Eight farmers injured in bear attack in Srikakulam

SRIKAKULAM

Eight farmers were injured after they were attacked by a bear in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday. They were attacked while working in coconut and cashew groves in the Kidisingi-Vajrapukotturu area. Six of them were hospitalised with grievous injuries. Around 10 head of cattle were injured. A 72-year-old died after he was attacked by a bear on Sunday, the residents said, adding that the forest officials were not taking steps to check the menace.

Vedanta Group puts up Sterlite Copper plant for sale

It has invited expression of interest

P. SUDHAKAR
SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
THOOTHUKUDI/CHENNAI

Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi. • FILE PHOTO

In a surprising move, the Vedanta Group has invited expression of interest for its Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi, which has been under lock and key since 2018 amid protests from the local people and a police firing.

"Vedanta, in conjunction with Axis Capital, invites expressions of interest for the sale of its copper plant along with its other units, which includes the smelter complex (primary and secondary), sulphuric acid plant, copper refinery, continuous copper rod plant, phosphoric acid plant, effluent treatment plant, captive power plants, reverse osmosis units, oxygen generation unit and residential complex," the company said in an advertisement on Monday. The last day to submit the EOI is July 4, 2022.

The Thoothukudi plant has an installed capacity of 4,00,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) at the integrated copper smelter and refinery, with another 4,00,000 MTPA under expansion. When the plant was operational it provided employment to over 5,000 people and to another 25,000 indirectly through the value chain. It also produced approximately 40% of India's demand for copper and contributed around ₹2,500 crore to the exchequer; 12% of the Thoothukudi port's revenue; and 95% of the market share for sulphuric acid in Tamil Nadu. The company claimed that Vedanta was committed to the State and its people with the aim to contribute towards its development and revenue and employment generation.

The announcement came as a surprise because in the last few years officials from Sterlite Copper have been meeting several people and insisting that closing the plant, selling the plant or moving away from Tamil Nadu was not on cards. Sources in Thoothukudi said no one was aware of the move to sell it till now. The company spokesperson later sent out a message which said: "The Tuticorin plant is a national asset which has been catering to 40% of our national demand of copper and has played an integral role towards India's self-sufficiency in copper. In the best interest of country and the people of Tamil Nadu, we are exploring options to make sure that the plant and the assets are best utilised to meet the growing copper demand."

Since the closure, the plant has been incurring a loss of ₹5 crore a day. The company officials recently said that around ₹800 crore-₹1,000 crore would be required to revamp the plant, if and when the permission for its reopening came.

Kerala to give 'maximum' water to T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Steps will be taken to provide maximum water to Tamil Nadu from Siruvani Dam considering the water shortage faced by Coimbatore city, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said.

In a letter to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Mr. Vijayan said on Monday that the water level in Siruvani Dam increased from 45 million litres per day (MLD) to 75 MLD on June 19 and to 103 MLD on June 20. According to the design of the dam, the maximum possible discharge level is 103 MLD.

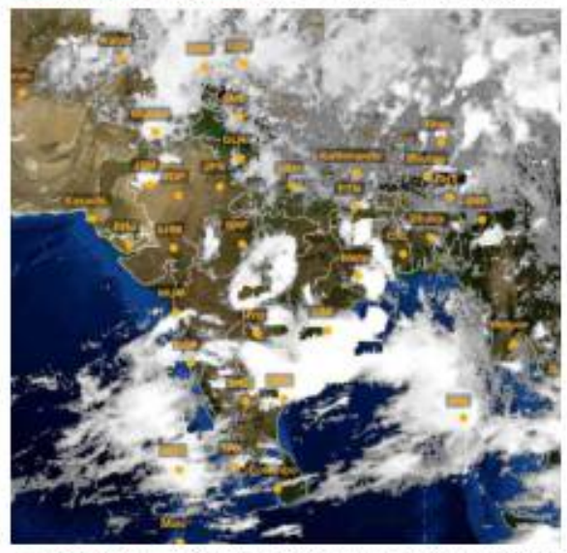
The Chief Minister also replied in the letter that soon the matter would be discussed in detail and a consensus arrived at. Mr. Pinarayi also suggested a Chief Minister-level meet at the earliest to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Pinarayi's statement was after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's letter on Sunday seeking Kerala's intervention to maintain the storage of the Siruvani dam at full reservoir level to meet the water requirements of Coimbatore and its suburbs. In his letter, Mr. Stalin pointed out that Kerala's Irrigation department was maintaining maximum water level instead of full reservoir level, as stipulated in the inter-State agreement. On Monday, Mr. Stalin conveyed to his Kerala counterpart that he was looking forward to discussing and resolving issues between the two States with the spirit of cooperation. Post Kerala's order to release water from Siruvani to meet the drinking water requirements of Coimbatore city, Mr. Stalin thanked Mr. Vijayan.

(With inputs from Chennai bureau)

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	63	29.2	24.4	Kozhikode	–	33.4	25.2
Ahmedabad	–	40.5	28.0	Kurnool	–	34.7	25.8
Aizawl	36	23.4	20.2	Lucknow	–	37.4	27.2
Allahabad	–	36.2	24.8	Madurai	2	35.5	24.0
Bengaluru	2	28.4	20.7	Mangaluru	2.3	30.0	23.0
Bhopal	1.7	35.0	23.5	Mumbai	13	29.3	25.0
Bhubaneswar	10.9	34.2	24.3	Mysuru	–	30.0	20.8
Chandigarh	–	34.6	24.4	New Delhi	–	32.8	23.6
Chennai	93	35.5	22.0	Patna	11	34.8	25.5
Coimbatore	–	33.6	23.2	Port Blair	–	31.6	26.0
Dehradun	16	33.3	20.4	Puducherry	–	35.6	25.0
Gangtok	0.2	20.3	16.9	Pune	–	28.8	23.6
Goa	2	29.8	23.7	Raipur	25	27.7	24.8
Guwahati	19	32.8	24.2	Ranchi	6	31.4	22.0
Hubballi	–	29.0	22.0	Shillong	2	24.7	17.6
Hyderabad	4	34.7	24.6	Shimla	–	25.8	16.6
Imphal	14	28.9	21.5	Srinagar	0.9	18.2	13.5
Jaipur	47	31.0	22.5	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.7	24.6
Kochi	–	30.6	25.0	Tiruchi	–	36.5	25.5
Kohima	13.4	24.4	15.3	Vijayawada	0.3	36.8	27.6
Kolkata	2	33.3	25.1	Visakhapatnam	–	32.6	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	63	41	60	38	79	
Bengaluru	17	21	22	86	83	
Chennai	21	15	73	28	41	
Delhi	4	284	72	57	195	
Hyderabad	2	16	44	109	95	
Kolkata	15	16	21	48	67	
Lucknow	14	12	68	67	97	
Mumbai	58	26	44	16	22	
Pune	129	17	110	63	51	
Visakhapatnam	14	39	22	56	75	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an air quality index (AQI) score of 200 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PM reels out names of mutts, lauds them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the services rendered by religious mutts in spreading knowledge through education and strengthening the cultural fabric of the country.

He was speaking after inaugurating the KSS Sanskrit Pathashala and Hostel Building at Suttur Mutt in Mysuru on Monday. The Prime Minister also released the commentaries on Narada Bhakti Sutras, Shiva Sutras, and Pathanjali's Yoga Sutra. The commentaries were written by Siddeshwar Swami who was also present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said whenever the country faced challenges and crisis through the centuries, religious mutts and seers rose to the occasion to strengthen the spiritual foundations of society.

He listed the names of a slew of mutts in Karnataka, much to the delight of the crowd, and said that sanyasis and mathadipathis from Kashi in the north to Nanjangud which was the Dakshin Kashi, played a role in revitalising the spiritual traditions of India.

Mr. Modi praised both Suttur Mutt and Siddaganga Mutt of Tumakuru for establishing hundreds of educational institutions. "The religious institutions have played a great role in furthering the cause of education and spreading the flame of knowledge," said Mr. Modi.

The Prime Minister said any effort in nation building received greater zeal and public participation if it had the blessings and involvement of seers and mutts and called upon the latter to spread the importance of natural and organic farming. This, Mr. Modi, said would help make the country chemical-free and the food, more healthy.

Some decisions will bring benefits later, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Without mentioning the Agnipath scheme that has triggered protests in several parts of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that some decisions may look unpleasant now, but will help the country later.

Addressing a public programme at Kommaghatta grounds, he said though some decisions look unpopular now, they would take the country in a new direction and help the youth to reap benefits in the future. The above statement is being seen as PM's defence of the Agnipath scheme.

In sync

Creative demonstration: Heralding the International Yoga Day celebrations, the Indian Coast Guard team organised a group yoga session at V.K. Krishna Menon Indoor stadium in Kozhikode. • K. RAGESH

Trains services unhindered at Secunderabad

RPF, PAF and Telangana police deployed at the railway station to tighten security

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The Secunderabad railway station, which was ground zero of anti-Agnipath protests in Telangana on Friday, remained peaceful on Monday. Though a call for a Bharat bandh was given on Monday, train services remained uninterrupted.

Railway Protection Force (RPF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), and Telangana police deployed at the railway station were on alert throughout the day. Anticipating that protestors might visit the station again, Government Railway Police (GRP) officers have urged young protestors on Sunday not to damage any public property and to protest peacefully. The GRP said that not even one protestor has come to the station on Monday.

Security was tight at entry points of the railway station. RAF personnel were seen lined up alongside the path leading to the entry points. On the platforms too, personnel from the three forces were seen at regular intervals.

The usual passenger activity was witnessed there: some passengers were seen rushing towards the platforms to catch trains and some remained seated on other platforms waiting to board trains.

Eight motorcycles were damaged and burnt during violence on Friday at Secunderabad railway station • NAGARA GOPAL

Nine people discharged

Of the 13 people who got injured at the protest on Friday and admitted at Gandhi Hospital, nine were discharged on Monday evening. Of the remaining four, three suffered injuries in the chest and one has fracture in the femur. The hospital authorities said that it would take around a week to discharge the remaining four patients.

Cases booked

On the day violent protests were held at Secunderabad railway station, a few protestors had vandalised glasses of three TSRTC buses too. Drivers of the buses have lodged complaints with the police.

The police said that they have registered cases under Sections 143, 149, 427, 341, of IPC, and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Regarding the case being handled by GRP, its SP B. Anuradha said on Monday that the case would be transferred to the police. It was learnt that it would take one or two days to transfer the case.

'YSRCP in A.P. mobilising fake voters'

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

A delegation of Andhra Pradesh BJP leaders led by party State president Somu Veerraju submitted a memorandum on the 'electoral malpractices' in the Atmakur Assembly constituency to Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena at the Secretariat on Monday.

Addressing the media later, Mr. Veerraju said the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) was mobilising 'fake voters and money was being distributed through the ward and village volunteers'. People were fearing that they might be targeted if they cast their votes for candidates of their choice in the byelection, he said.

Rare dragonfly spotted in Kerala for first time

Spiny Horntail, seen in Kottiyoor forests of Kannur, was discovered in Maharashtra

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Dragonfly enthusiasts have recorded the presence of a rare dragonfly that was hitherto unseen in Kerala.

Afsar Nayakkan and Vibhu Vipanchika spotted the Spiny Horntail, *Burmagomphus chaukulensis* Joshi, Ogale & Sawant, 2022 (or *B. chaukulensis*), during a recent expedition to the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur. The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year.

The discovery that was recorded from Kottiyoor was confirmed by Vinayan P. Nair, an odonate expert who represents the TNHS Odonata Research Group (TORG) of the Travancore Nature History Society (TNHS).

Unusual find: Spiny Horntail spotted in Kottiyoor forest.

Researchers Shantanu Joshi, Dattaprasad Sawant and Hemant Ogale had spotted the species from Chaukul in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

Prior to their finding, the dragonfly genus Burmagomphus was represented by three species - *B. cauvericus*, *B. pyramidalis and B. laidlawi*. While *B. laidlawi* is found throughout the Western Ghats, *B. cauvericus* is more restricted in its distribution. *B. pyramidalis* is found in the Western Ghats as well as in Peninsular India. All other species of the genus are found in the Western and Eastern Himalayas.

The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages, said Mr. Nair.

According to a paper published by TORG last year, 181 odonata species have been recorded in Kerala. The addition of *B. chaukulensis* will take the count to 182. TORG research associate Kalesh Sadasivan said the discovery demanded more detailed studies of odonates in the areas of Kerala that forms part of the Western Ghats.

ED secures order to get Swapna's confessional statements

She is an accused in diplomatic channel gold smuggling case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has secured a court order to obtain the confessional statements of Swapna Suresh and P.S. Sarith, accused in the UAE diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, made before the Customs in December 2020.

P.S. Nishi, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Economic Offences), issued the order on Monday.

The directorate had approached the court on June 16 seeking certified copies of the confessional statements recorded under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Swapna Suresh

An earlier plea of the ED to obtain the statements was dismissed by the court on March 2, 2021 on the grounds that the investigation was not complete in the case. The agency approached the court afresh this month for the statements as the Customs Preventive had filed a prosecution complaint in the gold smuggling case.

Swapna and Sarith had given confessional statements to the Customs twice in the gold smuggling case, one on December 12, 2020 and the other on December 4, 2020.

Later, Swapna gave another statement this month before the Principal Sessions Court, in which she levelled allegations against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his family members and K.T. Jaleel, former Minister in the first government led by Mr. Vijayan.

An unjust pursuit

Julian Assange deserves freedom, not persecution for investigative journalism

The United States's relentless pursuit of Julian Assange received a fillip after the British Home Secretary, Priti Patel, gave the go-ahead to extradite him to the U.S. Wanted for criminal charges, which include violation of the country's Espionage Act of 1917, Mr. Assange could face punishment ranging up to 175 years in prison if convicted in the U.S. The charges were framed under the Donald Trump administration after accusing him of collaborating with U.S. soldier Chelsea Manning who published classified documents and communications on wikileaks.org, the website run by Mr. Assange. Mr. Assange is the first journalist to have been charged under the First World War era Act. Ironically, during the tenure of Mr. Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama (U.S. President Joe Biden was the Vice-President then) the Justice Department had concluded that it would not pursue criminal charges against Mr. Assange and WikiLeaks as it would pose grave threats to the country's press freedom laws, particularly the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution that guarantees freedom of expression. The cables and documents published by WikiLeaks reveal the severe abuse of international and humanitarian law, war excesses and crimes committed in Iraq and Afghanistan by the U.S. government among others, besides shining a light on the inner workings of the elite in democracies and autocracies across the world. The diplomatic cables in particular, initially released after careful redaction by media organisations, and other documents went on to form the bulwark of a large repertoire of investigative journalism. In a rational world, the perpetrators of the excesses revealed by WikiLeaks would have been pursued for justice while Mr. Assange would have been released from his harsh and extended stay in a British prison.

Yet, the dogged pursuit of Mr. Assange has been renewed by the Biden administration. The only guarantee that it has provided is that it will not hold him in a maximum security prison, which has strict confinement rules, and that if convicted, he could serve his sentence in his native Australia if he requested it. Its position runs counter to its stated aim of bringing the U.S. back to the forefront of world democracies that promote values enshrined in the West as pivotal, such as freedom of expression accorded to the press. Subjecting Mr. Assange to trial will be a blow against media freedom in the U.S. and will also criminalise investigative journalism, particularly one that is pointed at the inner workings of the deep state. Mr. Assange's representatives have filed an appeal before the British High Court. With the present Labor party-led Australian government – Mr. Assange remains an Australian citizen – also expressing its displeasure at the continued pursuit, the onus is on the British judiciary to do right by him.

Cracks at the centre

Macron seems to have lost some of his support base to the new left and the far-right

In the June 2017 parliamentary elections, held a few weeks after Emmanuel Macron was first elected President, Jean-Luc Mélenchon's leftist France Unbowed party won just 17 seats. Five years later, Mr. Mélenchon's coalition has emerged as the second largest bloc in the French Parliament with 131 seats, clearly showing a resurgence of the left. Mr. Macron's party, Renaissance, and its allies won 245 seats, short of the 289 needed for absolute majority in the 577-member National Assembly. The far-right National Rally led by Marine Le Pen came third with 89 seats, a historic high. The results largely endorsed the trend that was visible during the presidential elections earlier this year. In the first round, the two far-right candidates – Ms. Le Pen and Éric Zemmour – and the Left's Mr. Mélenchon together polled more than 50% of votes. Mr. Macron secured a comfortable victory in the run-off, but his margin over Ms. Le Pen shrank substantially unlike in 2017 – an indicator of slow-burning voter resentment. Mr. Mélenchon read the tea leaves correctly and built a wider leftist platform to fight the parliamentary polls. He forged an alliance with socialists, communists and greens, trying to avoid a split among voters in the left of centre spectrum. Ms. Le Pen doubled down on her anti-immigrant populism. Mr. Macron, faced with a two-flank attack, could not hold his centrist fort.

France's polity, traditionally dominated by the centre-right Conservatives and centre-left Socialists, has undergone structural changes. As the old consensus collapsed, Mr. Macron, a liberal populist, emerged as the guardian of the status quo. With pro-market economic policies and social liberalism, he projected himself as an alternative to the emerging new left and far-right parties. Though it helped him win back-to-back presidential elections, he could not calm rising resentment, which has finally hit his own party. The next five years will be harder for him than his previous term. He will have to stitch an alliance with the conservatives or win support from the left to drive his legislative agenda. What makes matters worse is a relentless cost-of-living crisis that has shaken western economies. France has managed to control fuel and electricity prices, for now, with a cap, but consumer price inflation has hit record levels. With a mushrooming energy crisis in the wake of Russia's Ukraine invasion, France, dependent on energy imports, is facing added pressure. This explains Mr. Macron's guarded approach towards the conflict. Unlike the U.K., the U.S. or eastern European countries, he has repeatedly called for ending the war through talks. Unless the war ends, he cannot tackle the inflationary pressure effectively. And unless he tackles the cost-of-living crisis, he cannot stop the new left and the far-right from eating into his support base.

The choice is narrowing the circle or widening it

The nation must remain diverse and inclusive, continuing to build itself on the principles in the Preamble

M. HAMID ANSARI

An editorial comment recently opined 'India is witnessing the progressive normalisation of minority baiting'. Some developments in a related context lend credence to it.

Recent happenings within the country and their reactions in lands far and near tend to pose the problem. The sequencing is relevant and must not be interchanged. The reactions beyond our shores were not autonomous and were induced by what was said to audiences at home, by whom it was said, and why it became critical and induced reactions, immediate and over a passage of time.

Neighbourhood impact

One aspect of the matter, understandably played up in the domestic media, is the reaction in the Gulf Cooperation Council and Persian Gulf countries with whom India has extensive and diverse political and commercial relations. These also provide gainful employment to many million Indian nationals whose remittances are an important source of foreign exchange remittances, in turn sustaining millions of households. Each of these has been quantified. In strategic terms, the region is India's extended neighbourhood; so is the case with Malaysia and Indonesia and Brunei in Southeast Asia.

It is evident that the malaise (while being domestic in its origin) has global dimensions. Its external manifestations are aggravated by modern means of communication. By the same logic, the correctives have to emanate in the context of domestic perceptions and practices.

An emerging disquiet

Muslims are our largest religious minority, constituting 14.3% of the total population and numbering over 200 million. If considered along with the populations in Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh, they constitute the largest Muslim group anywhere in the world. They are spread all over the country and are well integrated, but of late, signs of disquiet have been evident in all segments of the community.

The reason for this are the remarks uttered in media debates by two spokespersons of the ruling party reflecting on the personality of the Prophet. After a lapse of over a week of deafening silence, one of these persons was suspended and the membership of the second dispensed with. Both actions are viewed as inadequate by the community. No reaction has emanated from senior levels of government. The silence of institutional bodies such as the National Human Rights Commission of India and of the National Commission for Minorities is intriguing; so is the apparent reticence of the judiciary.

On the contrary, the use of strong-arm tactics and bulldozers to counter public demonstrations seeking firmer action against alleged culprits is suggestive of bias and has been aptly summed up in a candid editorial comment: 'there is little doubt that the demolitions amount to an abuse of power, a challenge to the rule of law and are inherently illegal due to the absence of due process or proportionality'. Some observers have even opined that the bulldozer is an instrument to silence the minorities since its use in similar cases involving non-minority public is wanting.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What then could be the intent? Would it be to discipline, and thereby give rise to a feeling of denial with all its consequences?

Furtherance of hate

The operative constitutional principle in social behaviour should be the promotion of equality and fraternity. In actual practice it is the contrary; this results in furtherance of hate by denigration. In an earlier period, this used to focus principally on regional types and linguistic expressions. This was found to be troublesome since retaliation in kind was often quick and in equal measure. The alternative was to denigrate faiths or socio-religious practices in competitive one-upmanship. An easy target in this was the numerous but socially and economically weaker segments that could even be mocked in terms of assumed backwardness. And, since most of our fellow citizens have reverence for traditional beliefs, 'experts' were soon discovered for these target areas. The public's addiction to popular television and its concocted levels of debate (premised on a preference for the brash and the articulate) invariably produces the desired results sought in some sections.

Indic versus non-Indic

A categorising segment of recent origin is the differentiation between Indic and non-Indic. This, put together with the existential diversity of faiths, seeks to divide fellow citizens between those who pursue Indic faiths assumed to be of Indian origin and those who subscribe to Christianity and Islam allegedly of external import. The argument is premised on a certain reading of Indian history and the sociological issue is sought to be premised on what constitutes Indianness, ignoring that our society is 'a mosaic in which primordial cleavages both intersect and intermix with contemporary socio-economic segments'.

This ideological effort in a quest of 'purifying exclusiveness' is premised on our reading of history. A relevant question is whose history – of India defined in the period of British rule, or of India traditionally defined as Bharat? The latter would include many segments of southern Asia covered today by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. Furthermore, and in terms of what is sought to be presented as our history would also include parts of Afghanistan and even of Iran since the latter was depicted by M.S. Golwalkar as 'nothing but the base of Aryabhumi'. One consequence of this would be to categorise Ghazni, Khilji, Lodi, etc. not as foreign invaders but as domestic brigands who committed acts of loot and plunder and even succeeded in establishing kingdoms. Nor can the landmass of Bharat be described in terms of faith alone since there was a period of several centuries when Buddhism was the dominant religion. Furthermore, in the centuries when the rulers were Muslims, no effort seems to have been made to carry out mass conversions; on the contrary, the influence of Sufi saints was more pervasive.

The Indian reality of migrating groups seeking greener pastures since times immemorial qualifies our nomenclature of a 'civilisational state' and is better depicted in Raghupati Rai Firaq's couplet: *Sar zamin-e-hind par aqwam-e-alam ke Firaq/Qafile baste gae hindostan banta gaya* (Caravans from nations of the world kept coming and contributed to the formation of Hindostan).

Linguistically, India has also been called 'a land of linguistic minorities'. The Linguistic Survey of India and the research of Ganesh Devy bring forth the regional diversity of living languages. This lends credence to outbursts against linguistic homogeneity that is attempted periodically in the guise of national unity.

In multiple senses, our national choice thus lies in an ever-widening circle and in resisting all attempts, however well meaning, in abridging it. India is and must remain diverse and inclusive, and continue to build itself on the principles inscribed in the Preamble.

M. Hamid Ansari is the former Vice-President of India, 2007-2017

A case of the court straying into the legislative sphere

The Allahabad High Court's directions in the context of marital discord, though noble in intent seem to be flawed

R.K. VIJ

Recently, the Allahabad High Court, while allowing two criminal revisions pertaining to a dowry case, took cognisance of the misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), proposed certain safeguards and directed the State authorities of Uttar Pradesh to take the necessary steps for their implementation in a given time period. The High Court expressed its concern over the growing tendency of dowry victims to rope in the husband and all his family members using general and sweeping allegations.

The directions, *inter alia*, include constitution of a family welfare committee in each district under the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), handing over the first information report to such a committee immediately after its registration, and no arrest to be made by the police during this "cooling period' of two months. As far as the High Court judgment reads, there were no allegations against the police that had dropped charges against two persons for lack of evidence and charge-sheeted only the husband and his parents based on available evidence.

Strangely enough, the High Court specifically mentioned in its judgment of taking guidance from the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar vs Union of India* (2018), a case in which the Supreme Court overturned the judgment of its two-judge Bench and held constitution of similar committees and an embargo on arrest by the police for one month till the submission of report by the family welfare committee, impermissible under the scheme of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) (*Rajesh Sharma vs The State of U.P.*, 2017). Both Court judgments also dealt with the growing misuse of dowry provisions.

Committee's role

Except for the minor difference in the composition of the family welfare committees (such as inclusion of a young mediator or an advocate or a senior law student) as directed by the High Court, the primary role of such committees remains the same, i.e., settling the matrimonial dispute between the two parties. Whereas, in the Rajesh Sharma (supra) case, directions did not apply to the offences involving tangible physical injuries, the High Court's directions shall apply to the cases involving Section 498A IPC, along with no injury - Section 307 (attempt to murder) and other sections in the IPC in which the imprisonment is less than 10 years. In other words, if a woman's bone is fractured or

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

permanent privation is caused to any eye or ear or a joint by her husband during the course of a matrimonial fight, the police shall not effect arrest, as the maximum imprisonment prescribed in such cases of grievous hurt is seven years. The police shall only do peripheral investigations such as collecting the injury report and recording the statements of witnesses, whose worth is unsure in further proceedings. The judgment is also silent about the role of the police if a repeat offence is committed during such a 'cooling-period" of two months, which was only one month in the overruled Rajesh Sharma (supra) case.

The moot question (without going into the nuances) is whether the High Court was well within its jurisdiction to issue such directions when the scheme of investigation under the CrPC was clearly laid down and there was no ambiguity about or gaps in the law on arrest, inviting such a fresh interpretation. In *Vishaka vs State of Rajasthan* (1997), the Supreme Court issued directions to enforce fundamental rights in the absence of law in certain cases of sexual harassment at the workplace. However, in the case of Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar (supra), the Court held that a third agency (i.e., the family welfare committee) had nothing to do with the CrPC, and more so in stalling arrest till a report is submitted by the committee. The directions to settle a case after it is registered is not a correct expression of law, the top court held.

It cannot be refuted that the directions issued by the High Court were inspired with noble intentions to curb the tendency of reporting cases with exaggerations and sweeping allegations in the heat of matrimonial discord. But these directions potentially fall in the sphere of legislature. The constitutionality of dowry provisions has already been established. Also, the misuse of Section 498A IPC by itself cannot be a ground to dilute it and issue directions which do not flow from any provision of the Code. Moreover, these directions might curtail the rights of a genuine victim of dowry harassment.

Possible solutions

However, in order to check false cases of dowry and avoidable incarcerations, two solutions seem plausible. First, the police must strictly enforce the Supreme Court's directions issued in *Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar* (2014) and ensure that there is sufficient reason and credible material against the accused person to necessitate arrest. The investigating officers must be imparted rigorous training with regard to the principles stated by the Court relating to arrest. At the same time, wrongdoers need to be punished departmentally.

Second, the legislature may deliberate upon and make Section 498A IPC bailable. Similarly, though the High Court (using its inherent powers under Section 482 CrPC) can quash a criminal proceeding which is not compoundable (after a settlement is reached between the opposing parties), the legislature can amend and make the offence under Section 498A IPC compoundable so that a compromise could be arrived at with or without the permission of the competent court. This will not only save cost to the parties in dispute but also the High Court's valuable time. Similarly, once the Mediation Bill, 2021 is enacted, the institutional mediation mechanism may also help in settling the matrimonial dispute through the civil route.

Till the time any such amendment is made or law is enacted, the law of the land needs to be enforced strictly by both the police and the courts, without any dilution. Any such directions which do not emanate from the provisions of law, are likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court again.

R.K. Vij is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Agnipath and after

The Government's decision to implement the Agnipath scheme under the pretext of infusing young blood in the defence forces and pruning financial expenses being incurred for salaries and pensions, thereby using the saved amount to buy advanced weaponry systems lacks conviction. The Service Chiefs have been put in a delicate position by the Government to accept and endorse the scheme. When there is large-scale unemployment, made worse by the pandemic, how will space be found for the Agniveers who exit the services? Even if the private sector lends a helping hand, there are limits.

When thousands of India's sons are risking their life guarding the country's borders round the clock to ensure our safety, donning the accountant's hat and thinking about savings and pensions saved should not have entered the mind of the Government. To use the argument that this is the trend in some parts of the advanced world is specious.

SANTANAM SESHADRI,
Chennai

■ All officers who have commanded battalions will confirm that it takes at least six years of dedicated and involved training to create a soldier. The new scheme will affect the regimental spirit of *Naam, Namak, Nishan*. The defence forces and the Indian Army in particular will be reduced to another central armed police force. As a veteran, I can say that this scheme will have grave repercussions down the line. The service "brass" must work on the Government to withdraw this scheme in the interests of the nation.

C.B. MENON,
Chennai

■ The aspirants cannot blame anyone but themselves for the current situation, as their protests were violent from the beginning, giving no room for peaceful negotiations. Now that the Services have announced the recruitment schedule, there is no point in the aspirants continuing with their protests. As Agnipath is the only route for soldier recruitment, they must begin preparing for the tests. The Agnipath scheme may be imperfect from the public point of view, but the argument put forward by the Services – to bring down the average age and cost-cutting – needs to be understood in perspective. In the current technological age, more than numbers, the quality and agility of the armed forces is more important. Also, the Services would need younger people conversant with the latest technology. Instead of getting disheartened as only 25% of the Agniveers will be absorbed in the armed forces, it is better that they all note that they will be getting the best training possible in the country for four years, exit the forces and enter the job market with a distinct advantage over the others.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

■ The Government has put out a list of advantages of being an 'Agniveer', but there are some steps it can take to calm those protesting. It can announce that the previously ongoing defence recruitments can continue simultaneously with this scheme. Second, it can clarify what the percentage of defence recruitments will be under this scheme every year. Third, it can increase the initial period of service or ensure a 'Seva Nidhi' package in the form of pension. If an Army official who supports the Agnipath scheme said that 'nothing is cast in stone' (about the earlier recruitment scheme), the same line applies to this as well.

DEEPANSHU PANCHAL,
Kolkata

■ It was distressing to read some of the thoughtless remarks made by BJP leaders about the employability of those Agniveers who leave the defence services after four years (Inside pages, "BJP leaders' comments lead to a strong backlash", June 20). One is not sure whether this might sow the seeds of doubt in the minds of aspiring Agniveers. It is important that defence officials who have spoken in praise of the scheme ensure that there is a bright future for our youth.

SHALINI GERALD,
Chennai

Think environmentally

India's standing in the recently released Environment Performance Index is disappointing. Ever since the index was started, India has not scored well. Its dismal ranking in air quality does not need elaboration. The Government needs to gauge the adequacy of its environmental policies. Economic prosperity and development cannot be used as an argument to not act against climate change.

KARTIKEY SINGH,
Faridabad, Haryana

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The reference to Mr. Varun Gandhi as BJP *MLA* should be corrected to BJP *MP* in the report titled "BJP leaders' comments lead to a strong backlash" (June 20, 2022).

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At the centre of job creation

The government should re-establish its role as the principal employment generator

K.R. SHYAM SUNDAR

With his announcement that 10 lakh government jobs will be provided over the next 18 months on a "mission mode", Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent four messages. One, the creation of employment is indeed a problem and can no longer be hidden from the public discourse. Two, the private sector, especially modern sectors such as the service and manufacturing sectors, which are dominated by multinational companies, have not created many jobs. Even if the Information Technology sector or the modern gig economy have created jobs, these are either very high-skilled jobs or low-skilled ones. Three, the government in the Nehruvian scheme of development occupied an important place in the labour market. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, whose ideology is different and which often attacks the Nehruvian model, is now ironically forced to step in as persistently rising inflation, unemployment and underemployment threaten to politically affect it. And four, the NDA government has blown the 2024 general election bugle.

A MGNREGA site in Kalaburagi district. • ARUN KULKARNI

Employment trends

A populist announcement made by any government needs to be critically studied. Let's look at some employment data. First, the last year for which we have information on employment in the organised sector from the Directorate General of Employment and Training is 2012. The statistics were provided under the employment market information programme. The NDA government is at present relying on the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation/National Pension System/Employees' State Insurance Scheme registrations and exits as indicators of the formal labour market. This could be misleading as companies may be increasing registrations to cross the threshold to become eligible to fall under any of these. Hence, this might be more a case of formalisation rather than employment generation. Second, media reports show that more than 85% of those aspiring for those 10 lakh jobs could be consumed by existing vacancies in Central government departments (8,72,243). In that sense, the pronouncement possibly does not indicate 10 lakh new jobs. Third, 241 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) have been shedding jobs in recent years – jobs declined from 10.84 lakh in 2017-18 to 10.71 lakh in 2018-19 and to 9.22 lakh in 2019-20. Mr. Modi did not speak of employment creation by the CPSEs though this downward trend is a cause for concern.

The 10 lakh jobs creation also needs to be seen in the context of the labour market. Even though the labour force and workforce participation rates have increased marginally, there is a decline in the quality of jobs, viz. there is a rise in the unpaid segment of the self-employed and a rise in the share of the agricultural sector in total employment over the last three Periodic Labour Force Surveys (43% to 47%). This is a historical retrogression. This huge mass of workers contributes, thanks to low productivity, to about one-sixth of our national income, which does not augur well for a healthy economy. On the other hand, the manufacturing sector's share in national income has declined in 2020-21 (10.9%) compared to that in 2018-19 (12.1%).

Again, even though the aggregate usual status unemployment rate has slightly declined by a few percentage points (4.8% in 2019-20 to 4.6% in 2020-21), the current daily status unemployment figure (internationally used statistic) is at 7.5% for all persons in 2020-21. The educated unemployment rate (secondary school and above) in general and youth unemployment (15-29 years) in particular in the urban areas have very marginally fallen from 2019-20 to 2020-21, but they still high enough to cause concern (in double digits). Employment shares in the informal enterprises have increased – for men (71% to 75%), women (55% to 57%) and all persons (68% to 71%) from 2017-18 to 2020-21. Even though the share of regular salaried workers who did not have a formal employment contract, paid leave and eligibility for any form social security have declined for both genders, the level is still high. The government could score a point or two by showing that there is a declining tendency in several labour market variables. But an honest government would concede that the levels of several variables remained discomfortingly high even after three decades of economic reforms.

Role of private sector

Even as the Nehruvian model of development is attacked in the current dominant political discourse, we cannot avoid placing the government at the centre of employment creation beyond a certain point. The private sector creates jobs in response to market forces and while taking into consideration radically altering technological developments. We cannot rely on the projections about employment generation by the gig economy. They are estimates computed by a trade body or by consulting agencies which have vested interests. As they are political economy agents influencing government policies, their predictions need to be read with many pinches of salt. The job recovery stories, which are published from to time in the pink press, based on employment service providers such as Monster Employment Index, need to be seen in the context of a highly job-impoverished economy such as ours. Projects in the modern private sector consume a lot of capital to generate very few jobs. For instance, recently, there was a report that the Adani Group has invested ₹70,000 crore (or ₹700 million) in Uttar Pradesh to create merely 30,000 jobs. Foreign Direct Investment, which at any rate is highly capital-intensive, goes mostly into the non-manufacturing sectors.

Quantity and quality of jobs

Employment is not merely about numbers and growth figures. We need to concentrate on enabling the creation of decent work and a sustainable labour market to which India is committed as a member of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization. Wittingly or otherwise, the government's role in employment generation has entered into popular discourse and discussions on policy formation. While even one job is a miracle, we need millions. The government should play a significant role soon. A lean and mean government, which is often prescribed by the neoliberal project, often results in governance deficit. The government should re-establish its role as the principal employment generator through jobs in its ministries and CPSEs and through assured employment generation programmes like MGNREGA.

K.R. Shyam Sundar is Visiting Professor, XLRI, Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur

Resurrecting a dead law

Even if there is a backdoor attempt at legislation, bringing Section 66A back on the statute book will not be easy

PRABHASH RANJAN

Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which the Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional in 2015 in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* for having a "chilling effect on free speech", is back in the news. As part of the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations for a proposed international treaty on combating cybercrime, India made a formal submission for criminalising "offensive messages". The language in the submission is similar to what was used in Section 66A. Many contend that this amounts to a 'backdoor' attempt at legislation – that is, if India's submission becomes part of the proposed treaty, it would result in Section 66A springing back to life and being used by the state to curb free speech once again. However, it is not so simple.

Is international treaty binding?

First, international treaty negotiations are complex. It is premature to believe that India's suggestion of criminalising "offensive messages" will be readily accepted. The U.K. and many countries in the European Union have reportedly already contested India's submission because they see this as an undue impediment to the freedom of speech.

But suppose we assume that India's proposal is accepted, would that mean that the provision will have a direct effect on the Indian legal system? Arguably, India is a dualist state. Therefore, international law does not become a part of the domestic legal system unless it is specifically transformed into domestic law by Parliament, which will be required to enact legislation to implement the international law. This is different from the theory of monism, wherein international law is automatically incorporated into the domestic legal system of the country even without Parliament enacting an enabling legislation. However, over the years, the Supreme Court of India has moved away from this traditional dualist approach towards monism. In cases such as *Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan* (1997), *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India* (2014), and *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2018), the court followed an approach of judicial incorporation by reading international law into domestic law in the absence of any specific prohibition in municipal law. In other words, the emerging principle is that courts will respect international law unless it can be shown that it is inconsistent with municipal law.

If we do get an international treaty combating cybercrime with a provision similar to Section 66A, the Indian courts will not read this provision as part of domestic law because of the ratio in the *Shreya Singhal* case. It will be a classic case of an international law being in conflict with domestic law. Thus, the Indian courts will give primacy to the domestic law, not the international treaty provision criminalising "offensive speech".

Transforming international treaty

However, things may become convoluted if Parliament enacts legislation or amends existing legislation to implement the international treaty that criminalises "offensive messages". The government may get a law passed in Parliament using Article 253 of the Constitution, which states that Parliament has the "power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention", and place a provision similar to Section 66A back on the statute book. Legally, such a law can be justified as a necessary action to comply with India's international law obligations. It will then give the executive the power to book people for alleged "offensive messages" as was the practice earlier.

But what if the constitutionality of the re-introduced version of Section 66A is challenged? The courts will then examine the constitutionality of the reintroduced version of Section 66A in light of the fact that it was enacted to comply with India's international law obligations. But the constitutional court will still strike down the re-introduced version of Section 66A because the grounds on which this law was pronounced unconstitutional will still be valid in light of the fundamental right to free speech. In other words, just because Parliament enacts a law to give effect to an international treaty obligation, that does not mean that the law so enacted will not need to meet the test of constitutionality. Therefore, the possibility of Section 66A coming back on the statute book is bleak unless a bigger Supreme Court bench overrules *Shreya Singhal*.

But this issue is not just about legal technicalities. The alarming point is that the Indian government proposed the inclusion of a provision in an international treaty which was struck down by its own apex court for breaching fundamental rights. This mindset does not augur well for constitutionally protected fundamental freedoms in India.

Prabhash Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Views are personal

STATE OF PLAY

A divided opposition helps BJP

With Congress and JD(S) squabbling, BJP walked away with an extra seat in the Rajya Sabha polls

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA

The recent polls to four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka demonstrated the deep differences between the two opposition parties – the Congress and the JD(S) – which resulted in the ruling BJP winning a seat due to division of votes. Coming less than a year before the Assembly elections, this breakdown between the two parties is being seen as a precursor to the battle for "secular votes" in 2023.

The ego clashes between local Congress and JD(S) leaders nullified the efforts of senior leaders to arrive at a common ground on the candidate. While the Congress argued that it had supported the election of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to the Rajya Sabha in 2020, and as quid pro quo, sought the JD (S)'s support this time, the JD(S) asked the Congress to support its candidate to enable both the parties to win one seat each. Both raised secular issues to force the other out of the fray, but neither blinked. Eventually, the BJP won three seats, and the Congress won one. A fuming JD(S) then vowed that it would not get into any understanding in the future with the Congress, a party with which it has formed two coalition governments, albeit short-lived ones, in the past.

For the Congress, which had fielded a Muslim as the second candidate, it became difficult to withdraw from the fray. Its effort to portray the JD(S) as the "B team" of the BJP did not go far since the regional party did not seek the BJP's support. The JD(S) said the Congress had fielded a Muslim candidate as a "scapegoat" despite knowing that he would not win the election as the party had only 25 votes after casting the ballot for its first candidate, Jairam Ramesh. The Congress, in turn, said that the JD(S) chose not to support a minority candidate who was already in the fray.

The JD(S), which claimed to have lost about 25 seats in the 2018 elections for being branded as the "B team" of the BJP by the Congress, has been attempting to make inroads into the minority vote bank and appointed C.M. Ibrahim as the state president. The regional party claims to have emerged stronger than expected since only two of its legislators cross voted in the Rajya Sabha, against the popular perception that there is large-scale dissidence in the party. Having turned down an alliance with the JD(S), the Congress has sent a clear signal that it wants to consolidate votes in the Old Mysore belt where the two parties are traditional rivals.

With these political equations, the Leader of the Opposition, Siddaramaiah; Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D.K. Shivakumar; and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, all from the Old Mysore region, could be stuck fighting their own battles, with little time for other regions. For the BJP, which has been under attack for lack of focus on development, endless allegations of corruption and divisive politics, this could work well as it draws its strength from the Lingayat-dominated northern region and the coastal area. In fact, as Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Kumaraswamy continue to squabble and poach leaders from each other's parties, the BJP, which is keen to increase its footprint in Old Mysore, could benefit there too.

It would be interesting to see how all this will affect Mr. Siddaramaiah. The JD(S) believes that he was the biggest stumbling block for an alliance as the Congress high command had supported its candidate. Mr. Siddaramaiah, who wrote an open letter asking JD(S) MLAs to cast "conscience votes" for the Congress candidate, is now bound to be hounded by the JD (S), a party he was expelled from in 2005. The BJP, too, will up its attack against him, as he has been its most consistent and vocal critic. The former Chief Minister has detractors within the party as well, making him quite a loner in the political arena.

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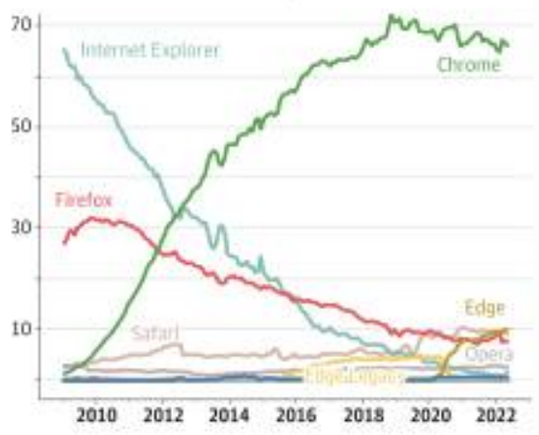
DATA POINT

Explorer ends its voyage

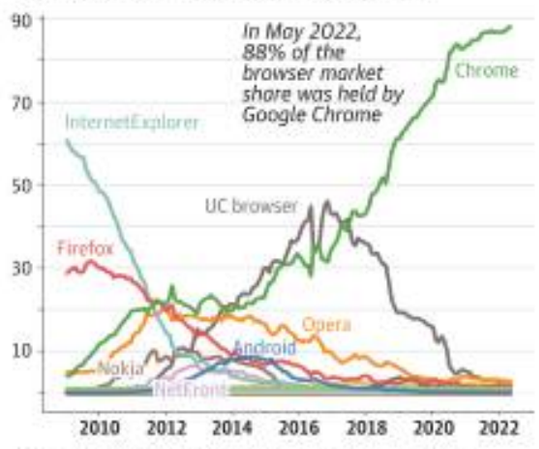
Twenty-seven years after its launch, Microsoft's web browser, Internet Explorer (IE), was retired last Wednesday. While IE has faced a lot of flak in recent years and has been blamed for poor surfing speed, it was once an Internet giant with an enviable market share. Today, the Google Chrome browser has taken IE's place across both desktop and mobile screens, holding more than 60% of the market share on both devices. In India, Chrome's market share on all devices put together has crossed 88%. However, Chrome's global market share has dipped significantly in the last few months due to notable increases in the market share of Microsoft's Edge browser and Apple's Safari. Firefox and Opera have been holding on to their existing users. Interestingly, there are still at least 20 nations in which more than 50% use browsers other than Chrome.

By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

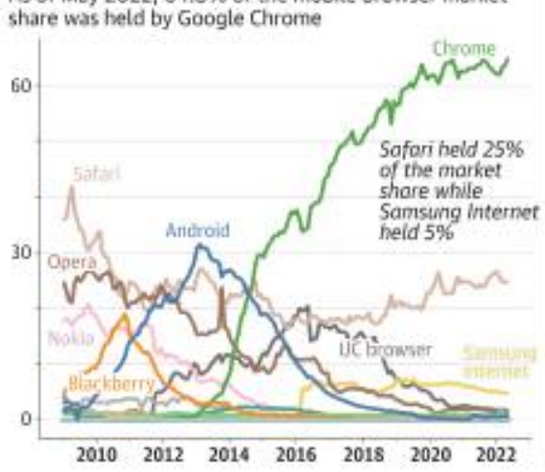
Desktop browsers | The graph shows the market share of web browsers worldwide among desktop users. As of May 2022, Google Chrome's market share was 66% of desktop browsers. With a 10% market share, Microsoft's Edge was second followed by Safari with around 9%. Mozilla Firefox (7.6%) and Opera (2.8%) were the other notable desktop browsers



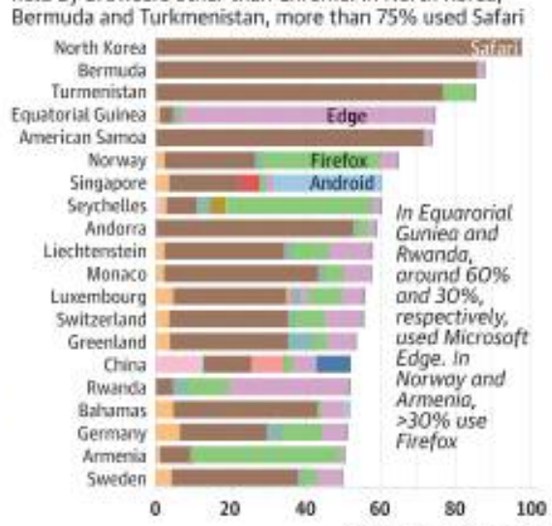
Browsers in India | The graph shows the market share of web browsers in India across devices. Interestingly, between 2014 and 2017, when IE's market share began to fall and Chrome's share began to rise, a majority of Indians preferred the UC browser



Mobile browsers | The graph shows the market share of web browsers worldwide among mobile users. As of May 2022, 64.8% of the mobile browser market share was held by Google Chrome



Non-Chrome users | The graph shows select countries where more than 50% of the market share is held by browsers other than Chrome. In North Korea, Bermuda and Turkmenistan, more than 75% used Safari



SOURCE: STATCOUNTER

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 21, 1972

'Must recognise Bangla Desh soon'

Rawalpindi, June 19: President Bhutto told Pakistani Editors to-day that Pakistan must recognise Bangladesh by September or become the "odd man out" at the United Nations. At a meeting in Murree from which foreign newsmen were barred, participants said Mr. Bhutto told them he planned to seek immediate restoration of diplomatic relations with India when he met the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi on June 28. According to the Editors, Mr. Bhutto said that withholding recognition could push Bangladesh closer to India. Mr. Bhutto said he first wanted to meet the Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rehman before recognition, but not in India, to discuss business involving their two countries. He said he wanted to talk with Sheikh Mujib about the sharing of the United Pakistan's assets and liabilities. He said he did not want to extend recognition first and then start quarrelling. According to the participants, Mr. Bhutto cautioned Editors "not to expect much" from the first meetings with Mrs. Gandhi. He said he was willing to agree immediately to the resumption of diplomatic relations broken on December 7, when India recognised Bangladesh. He said also he would seek the resumption of communications disrupted by the war as well as the resumption of trade halted since the 1965 war. Editors said he would also press for the withdrawal of troops from the Pakistan-India border.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 21, 1922

Disarmament

London, June 19: The text is issued of a bill to be introduced in the House of Lords for carrying out Washington treaties respecting limitation of naval armaments and protection of non-combatants at sea in wartime. The Bill restricts the building of warships except by the license of Admiralty and empowers Admiralty to search any ship being altered after being built, armed or equipped and to seize the ship where reasonable ground exists for believing that the Act is being contravened. The penalty for contravention is imprisonment not exceeding two years with or without hard labour and fine not exceeding $100 or both and forfeiture of ship. Anyone violating rules of warfare against commerce is liable to punishment similar to that awarded to pirates. The provisions cover the whole empire except Dominions, India and Irish Free State (when constituted).

FROM PAGE ONE

Bharat bandh affects life in some regions

The capital was under tight security of the police. The Youth Congress blocked a train at the Shivaji Bridge station in Delhi and the police removed 16 protesters to clear the tracks. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Assam, West Bengal and Rajasthan also witnessed protests.

Authorities said the bandh call was given on social media, though no group had owned it.

The Opposition continued to target the Centre over the scheme. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the intention of the BJP was to create its own private army.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said the Centre was playing with the future of the country, national security and the dreams of unemployed youth.

"The jawan of this country is a uniformed farmer. Most of the soldiers are from farmer families. Army job is tied to the honour and economic strength of lakhs of farmer families. It is a matter of shame for the country that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who started his victory campaign by rallying ex-servicemen with the promise of 'one rank, one pension', has now launched this scheme of 'no rank, no pension'," the SKM said.

Gopal Gandhi opts out of the fray; Oppn. rejigs plan

Mr. Gandhi issued a statement saying that the Opposition's candidate should be one who will "generate a national consensus" and a "national atmosphere beside Opposition unity". "I feel there will be others who will do this far better than I." he said. "I have requested the leaders to give the opportunity to such a person," Mr. Gandhi said. He contested the Vice-Presidential election in 2017.

After Mr. Gandhi declined to contest, key Opposition leaders had an informal meeting at Mr. Pawar's residence. Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Jairam Ramesh, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D. Raja and NCP leader Praful Patel were among those present.

Though Mr. Sinha's name is in contention, there are many reservations about his candidature. According to sources, a section of Opposition leaders want Mr. Sinha to resign from the Trinamool to make it comfortable for everyone to support him. His past association with the BJP is a roadblock. He had served as Finance Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

The Opposition had a first round of meeting on June 15 and the next is coming up on Tuesday. The Left parties have been particularly keen on Mr. Gandhi's candidature, with Mr. Yechury framing the contest as "Gandhi versus Godse", coinciding as it is with the 75th anniversary of Independence.

The Trinamool and the Aam Aadmi Party were banking on Mr. Pawar. But even before the first round of a joint Opposition meeting, he declared that he would not contest. With Mr. Gandhi counting himself out, Opposition parties are back to square one.

"There is a division among the Opposition parties. One section believes that we should wait for the government to declare their candidate and propose a suitable one to counter that.

Three held in Moosewala murder case

One of them, Priyavrat, led the team of shooters and was in touch with Goldy Brar, the police say

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested three persons for allegedly planning and executing the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, officers said on Monday.

H.G.S. Dhaliwal, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), said the accused had been identified as Priyavrat, 26, alias Fauji, of Sonipat in Haryana; Keshav Kumar, 29, of Bhatinda in Punjab; and Kashish of Jhajjar in Hayana.

In the net: Police personnel with three persons including two main shooters arrested in connection with Sidhu Moosewala murder case, in New Delhi on Monday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Main shooter

Mr. Dhaliwal told presspersons that Priyavrat led a team of shooters and was in direct touch with the Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar in the execution of the killing.

"He is the main shooter and executioner of the murder," the Special CP said.

Apart from Priyavrat, Kashish was the shooter involved in the incident. Kumar was the facilitator and received the shooters after the incident. Kumar dropped the shooters till Mansa district on the day of the incident.

Mr. Dhaliwal said the accused had conducted multiple recce before carrying out the murder.

"Eight grenades, nine electronic detonators, three pistols and one assault rifle have been recovered from the arrested accused," he said, adding that they had kept the grenades as an alternative option in case the other weapons did not work.

Claiming that two modules were involved in executing the incident, the police said that Priyavrat was driving a car which overtook Moosewala's car on the day of the incident.

Subsequently, six shooters came out of a vehicle being driven by one of the shooters, who then went on to open fire at the singer.

Previous cases

"They left only after confirming that Moosewala was dead," he added.

Priyavrat was previously involved in two murder cases and was arrested in 2015 for one of them from Sonipat. Priyavrat is involved in another murder case in Sonipat filed last year, the police said. Kumar is involved in a murder case in Bathinda in 2020 and is also suspected to be involved in ases of extortion in Punjab.

Mr. Moosewala, also known as Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, was shot dead by assailants in Mansa district of Punjab on May 29.

Three Maoists killed in Balaghat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

Three alleged Maoists, including a woman, were gunned down during an encounter with security forces in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday.

According to State Home Minister Narottam Mishra, the slain left-wing extremists were collectively carrying a reward of ₹30 lakh on their head. The Hawk Force, the State's elite combat unit raised to tackle armed threats, was involved in the encounter, he said. The deceased have been identified as Nagesh, Manoj and Rame, the Minister said.

The police also claimed to have recovered an AK-47 rifle, a .303 rifle and a 12-bore action gun from the spot.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced out-of-turn promotion and gallantry award for the policemen involved in the encounter.

Three more militants killed in J&K

Seven killed in the past two days, 114 killed this year in Valley, the police say

THE HINDU BUREAU
SRINAGAR

Three militants were killed in two separate anti-militancy operations by security forces in the Kashmir Valley on Monday, taking the toll to seven in the past two days.

The police said two of them were killed at Chandigam at Lolab in Kupwara, where an encounter started on Sunday.

All the slain militants were affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

An arrested militant, Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, who was "trapped" during the search operation in the area, is among the dead. A local militant, Sheikh was a resident of Sedow in Shopian. "Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including two AK-series rifles, six AK Magazines, an M-4 rifle along with a magazine and three live grenades were recovered from their possession," the police said.

On guard: Security personnel stand guard at a camp of Amarnath pilgrims in Jammu on Monday. • PTI

Meanwhile, an LeT militant was killed in an overnight gunfight in the Chatapora area of Pulwama district of South Kashmir.

The police identified the slain militant as Suhail Ahmad Khan from Maidan Chogal, Handwara. An encounter started in the area after a joint team of the security forces came under fire from hiding militants.

On Sunday, two militants – identified as Haris Sharief from Srinagar, a 'C' category militant affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Zakir Padder from Kulgam, a 'C' category militant affiliated to the Jaish-e-Muhammad – were killed in an operation in Kulgam's D.H. Pora area in south Kashmir.

"So far, 114 militants have been killed in the Valley this year, including 32 foreign militants, compared with 21 killed last year," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Shah flags importance of data protection

Ready to thwart cyberattacks, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that forces inimical to India had constituted "cyber armies" to launch cyberattacks against India but the Home Ministry was ready to thwart any such attempt.

Amit Shah

The Minister said data privacy and protection of critical infrastructure from cyberattacks were imminent challenges in the wake of the digital revolution in the country and it was a matter of happiness that 80 crore Indians had online presence.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the inauguration of the national conference on cybersafety and national security. The conference was organised by the Home Ministry as part of the efforts to create mass awareness for the prevention of cybercrimes in the country.

He said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that each Indian should be empowered with Internet and technology. "Today, 130 crore people are able to receive Direct Benefit Transfer. This was unthinkable before 2014 as 60 crore people did not have bank accounts due to corruption and other reasons," he said. In the past few days, cyber awareness campaigns had been conducted in different parts of the country, including Jharkhand.

Mr. Shah said crimes such as malware attacks, phishing, attack on critical infrastructure and child pornography were not new and these were going to only increase in the future. The number of cybercrimes registered in 2012 was 3,377 and in 2020, it had increased to more than 50,000 cases and by 2025, the crime rate was projected to go up by 231%.

11 lakh complaints

The cybercrime portal – cybercrime.gov.in – launched three years ago had so far received 11 lakh complaints, out of which more than two lakh pertained to social media.

He said there had been a 96% reduction in the price of Internet data in the past seven years and the more the rate fell, the more users would be connected to the Internet. He said till now $1 trillion worth of transactions had been made through BHIM-UPI and the interface was gaining global reach.

Ashutosh Agnihotri, Joint Secretary, Cyber and Information Security, said the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre had seven components, including a 24/7 cybercrime reporting portal.

Kashmiri Pandits seek written assurance to rejoin duty

Since Rahul Bhat's murder, over 5,400 employees have stopped attending office; hundreds have moved to safer locations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Kashmiri Pandit employees, recruited under the Prime Minister's special package, on Monday asked the J&K administration "to assure them in writing that no Pandit will be killed in the future so that they could resume their duties".

Thirty-two days have passed, with no Pandit attending office in the Valley after the spree of killings of the community members in May.

"Until the Lieutenant-Governor's government will not give in writing that no minority member will be killed, we will not resume offices. Kashmir is very unsafe and the brute forces are out to kill us for news. For them, we are just numbers. We don't want to become news. We want our family and children to be secure," Ajay, a Kashmiri Pandit employee and a member of the All Minority Employees' Association Kashmir (AMEAK), said.

Demonstration held

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits held a demonstration in Budgam's Sheikhpora transit migrant colony. Over a month ago, an employee from the colony, Rahul Bhat, posted at the tehsil office in Beerwah, was shot dead by militants in his office. Since then, over 5,400 Pandit employees, who had returned under the PM's special package to the Valley, have stopped visiting their offices in the Valley.

KASHMIRI PANDITS UNITED FRONT
DISPLACED KASHMIRI PANDITS REFUGEE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY
KASHMIRI PANDITS THE FORGOTTEN MINORITY WHAT ABOUT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS
GENOCIDE BEGINS WITH THE KILLING OF KASHMIRI PANDITS IN KASHMIR.
SAVE KASHMIRI PANDITS FROM ONE MORE GENOCIDE IN THE NAME OF PM PACKAGE EMPLOYMENT.
STOP TARGET KILLINGS AND ETHNIC CLEANSING OF KASHMIRI PANDITS.

Living in fear: Members of the Kashmiri Pandits United Front raise slogans during a protest in Jammu on Monday. • PTI

Hundreds of employees have left for safer locations in Hindu-majority Jammu.

"M.L. Bindroo was shot dead in his shop, just metres away from a police station. Bhat too was killed in a secure office. Such killings have stopped because Pandits have either left the Valley or stopped visiting their offices. The situation is not conducive. We should be relocated till the administration controls the situation on ground," Mr. Ajay said.

The employees, who have been recruited in the past 12 years in a bid to encourage migrant Pandit families to return to the Valley, termed the government move to post the employees in district headquarters "inadequate".

"Posting in district headquarters will not help. Even if I am posted three kilometres away from the camp, I cannot move around as a normal person," he added.

Sanjay, a Pandit employee from the Veesu migrant colony in south Kashmir, said the government seems to be "unmoved by our plight".

"The L-G did hold a dialogue with us. But all the issues cannot be addressed in one sitting. We demand that we should be attached to the Relief Commissioner's office, which is our parent organisation, till the situation improves," he said.

Scores of Pandits also held demonstrations in Jammu and demanded that Pakistan be declared as a terrorist state on World Refugee Day.

Miscreants attack Tripura Congress leader Sudip

He has been admitted to hospital

A CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA

Sudip Roy Barman, former Health Minister and Congress candidate in the 6-Agartala constituency in the upcoming byelection, suffered severe injuries in an attack at Ujan Abhoynagar here on Monday.

He has been admitted to a private hospital.

Sources said Mr. Barman and the State Youth Congress President Rakhu Das went to the locality after hearing about an assault on Congress supporter Bapi Goswami.

Sudip Roy Barman

Attack on May 2

Sources said Mr. Barman did not take security guards along with him. He was attacked with bricks and sticks, they added.

Earlier on May 2, a security staffer and driver of Sudip Roy Barman were wounded in an attack by bike-borne miscreants outside the residence of a senior advocate. Barman, however, had escaped unhurt.

Security deployment intensified in the city to quell tension. Byelections in four Assembly constituencies will be held on June 23.

Nupur Sharma seeks time to appear before Kolkata police

As reason for her absence, she cited fear of possible attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Sacked BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma did not appear before the Narkeldanga police station here on Monday, though it had sent her notice on the basis of an FIR filed by a local resident over her controversial remarks against Prophet Muhammed, an officer here said.

Citing fear of "possible attack" on her, Ms. Sharma sent an email seeking four weeks' time for her appearance, the senior police officer said. "Nupur Sharma wrote to us to say that she will not be coming to Narkeldanga Police Station today. In the mail, she has cited her apprehension about possible attacks as reason for her inability to come today. She has sought at least four weeks' time for appearing before our officers," he said.

During the day, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, speaking on a motion tabled in the West Bengal Assembly against the controversial remarks made by Ms. Sharma, said that provocative statements were being made to vitiate the atmosphere in the country.

"I don't want to name anyone as the matter is *sub judice*. Some people are deliberately making provocative statements to vitiate the atmosphere. I think those who have made such remarks should have been arrested long ago," she said.

The motion condemning the controversial remarks by Ms. Sharma was passed in the House. Ms. Sharma's comments, made during a TV debate, had sparked violent protests in several parts of the country.

Protests turned violent in West Bengal on May 26, with agitators blocking roads, vandalising public property and torching vehicles in Howrah district.

A complaint was filed before the Narkeldanga police station by a local person claiming that her comments caused the unrest. The Delhi Police provided security to Ms. Sharma and her family after an FIR was registered on a complaint that she was getting death threats.

Communist leader from Vietnam meets J.P. Nadda

Meeting was organised under 'Know the BJP' programme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi had an unusual visitor on June 20 – Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee Nguyen Van Nen had an official meeting with BJP president J. P. Nadda.

J.P. Nadda with senior Communist Party leader of Vietnam Nguyen Van Nen.

India and Vietnam have had cordial relations for decades but the two ruling parties can be considered to be belonging to two ends of the ideological spectrum, and therefore Mr. Van Nen's visit is considered unusual.

According to sources, the guest displayed considerable curiosity over the structure of the party, its organisation, internal polls, how members are recruited and trained, and how discipline is maintained by the party.

"There was a lot of inquisitiveness about how party cadres are organised, since communist parties world over are also cadre-based, he seemed curious about non-communist cadre-based parties," the source said.

The meeting was organised under the "Know the BJP" programme that has seen several meetings, in groups, with envoys of various countries stationed in Delhi and even very high profile visits to the BJP headquarters by Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and Singapore's Minister for Foreign Relations Vivian Balakrishnan.

BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh and the party's foreign affairs cell convenor Vijay Chauthaiwale were present at the meeting. A statue of Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh will be unveiled on June 21 in front of that country's embassy in New Delhi.

Sonia Gandhi discharged from hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi was discharged from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Monday and has been advised rest at home, the party said.

The hospital discharge comes barely three days before the Congress chief is scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to the *National Herald* case.

It is not clear at this stage if Ms. Gandhi would seek another date or appear before the federal agency on June 23.

Originally summoned for questioning on June 8, she tested positive on June 2 and sought more time to appear.

Ms. Gandhi was admitted to the hospital on June 12 following COVID-related complications and bleeding from the nose.

Centre has with one stroke crushed our dreams, say Army aspirants

In Nawada, the first district in Bihar where protesters set the local BJP office on fire, there is a sense of betrayal and an uncertain future

AMARNATH TEWARY
NAWADA

Under a huge banyan tree on a village ground in Nawada district, Sahil Kumar, 20, is one among the 30 Army aspirants mulling over the uncertain future that lies ahead of them ever since the Union government announced the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers into the armed forces.

"Life is meaningless now," he murmurs while lowering his head and fighting back tears. For the past two-and-a-half years, he has been preparing for a job in the Army, running five km on the ground in the morning and four km on a nearby dry riverbed in the evening, every day. Being the only son of an agriculturist, Sahil says his father had big dreams for him and wanted to see him as an Army man. He too was working very hard, planning to marry off his two younger sisters as an Army man. "But this government has crushed all my dreams with one stroke, I've lost sleep, lost interest in life," he says. His friends, who appear equally disheartened, try to console him.

Over 100 Army job aspirants from over a dozen surrounding villages practise every day at the village ground chasing their dream job.

Nawada is the first district in Bihar where protesters set the local BJP office on fire and attacked the local BJP MLA Aruna Devi's vehicle on June 16. Thousands of students preparing for the Army job and living in lodges in Nawada town had come out on the streets against the Agnipath scheme. They vented their ire on the local BJP office located on the outskirts of the town, ransacking the three-storey building and setting it ablaze. Even after three days, when *The Hindu* reached the party office on June 19, broken plastic chairs, tables, switch boards, burnt files, posters of party leaders and other furniture were lying strewn around.

Long road ahead: Aspirants to the armed forces training at a village ground in Nawada, Bihar. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Luckily, there was no one in the office at that time, otherwise the protesters might have killed them. I reached here seeing columns of smoke billowing into the sky and informed the police and party leaders about the incident," said local BJP leader Vinay Kumar. Now, three security personnel have been posted at the BJP office, which is without electricity, water, sanitation and other facilities.

The passion for an Army job is so intense among the aspirants that one of Sahil Kumar's friends, Sanjit Kumar, has affixed "Army Lover" before his name. Though Sanjit is 23 years old, he wants "a two years' relaxation in recruitment age as there was no vacancy in the Army in the last two years because of COVID-19". "We who come from such rural and poor background eat, dream and sleep thinking about an Army job," he says.

"The sheer thrill of wearing the Army uniform makes us mad about the job. An Army job automatically earns you respect in society," he says. His friends Rohit and Mohit Kumar, both 21 years old and sons of marginal farmers, too nod and say, "Unless the government withdraws this short-term scheme of Agnipath, we'll continue our protest in a peaceful manner".

Asked why trains and offices of a particular political party were being attacked and burnt down during the protests, one aspirant said, "It might be handiwork of some anti-social elements masquerading as students. How can we who aspire to die for the nation, harm national property? Like the kisan aandolan (farmer's protest), we'll continue our protest peacefully and force the government to relent."

"First we've to pass the physical test, then the medical test and finally the written exam," says Sahil Kumar, pointing out how difficult it is to get into the Army. In the physical test, aspirants have to pass the 1,600 metres race, perform a long-jump of 12 feet and do pull-ups, he adds. "But the medical test is the toughest one," he says and most of the aspirants under the banyan tree agree.

However, speaking to *The Hindu*, a young IPS officer posted in Patna, who earlier served in the Air Force for seven years, suggested that the Central government should extend the four-year service tenure for Agnipath aspirants to at least seven years and provide them their graduation and Master's degree with provision of priority in other armed forces, either at the Centre or in the States.

"Most of the protesting students we've rounded up support this suggestion," he said.

(Names and location of aspirants have been changed as they fear police reprisal)

'Joining Army voluntary, there is no conscription'

Union Minister slams Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister and former Army chief General V.K. Singh (retd.) has said that joining the Army is voluntary and there is no conscription. The Opposition, particularly the Congress, is trying to mislead the youngsters.

General V.K. Singh (retd.)

"Joining the Army is voluntary and not a compulsion. If any aspirant wants to join, he can join as per his will, we don't conscript soldiers. But if you don't like this recruitment scheme [Agnipath] then don't come [to join]. Who is asking you to come? You are burning buses and trains. Who told you that you will be recruited into the armed forces. You will be selected only if you fulfil the eligibility criteria," the Minister told pressmen on the sidelines of an event in Nagpur on Sunday.

Gen. Singh said the Opposition, particularly the Congress, was trying to mislead the youngsters. "They want to create unrest in the country to defame the government," he said.

The Union Minister slammed the comments by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on the Agnipath scheme. "The Congress is upset because Rahul Gandhi is being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate. Hence, the party finds fault with even the best of the best work of the government," he said.

He said the concept of short tenure was proposed by the Kargil review committee.

The Army was neither an employment agency nor a company or a shop and people join out of their interest to serve the nation.

Cong. leaders meet President to seek withdrawal of Agnipath

Delegation urges him to look into police excesses, misuse of Central agencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday was being questioned for the fourth day by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to the *National Herald* newspaper, the Congress held a satyagraha at Jantar Mantar to protest against the Centre's misuse of government agencies to carry out political vendetta against Opposition leaders and the Delhi Police's alleged manhandling of Congress leaders without any provocation during protests that were recently organised against the Agnipath scheme.

On Monday, Mr. Gandhi was summoned again by the federal agency, clocking more than 40 hours of questioning. Congress leaders marched from Parliament House to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and a seven-member delegation handed over two separate memoranda to President Ram Nath Kovind.

Making a point: Congress leaders at a satyagraha held in Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

One of them demanded the rollback of the Agnipath scheme, while the other pertained to the Delhi Police committing excesses such as forcibly entering the All India Congress Committee headquarters and beating up members of Parliament (MPs) without provocation.

"We have requested the President as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to protect the Constitution, protect the security and defence of this country, protect the traditions and ethos of the Army, Navy and Air Force and to ensure that those who offer to join the defence forces are not left high and dry after four years," former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram told reporters. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel, senior leaders K.C. Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh and Mr. Chidambaram were part of the delegation.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, were part of the delegation who went to meet President Kovind.

The petition regarding the Delhi Police has urged the President to refer it to the Privileges Committees immediately and suggested that "the Committee begin a time-bound enquiry on breach of privilege".

At the satyagraha at Jantar Mantar, senior Congress leader Subodh Kant Sahai courted controversy by stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "behaving like Adolf Hitler and will die like Hitler" if he follows the path of the German dictator.

Distancing itself from the comments, the Congress's communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted that the Congress would keep on fighting against "the dictatorial approach and anti-people policies of the Modi government but it would never endorse any indecent comments against the Prime Minister".

Lawyer moves Supreme Court against scheme

'Scheme will harm nation as a whole'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A public interest litigation (PIL) petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday challenging the Agnipath scheme, saying the recruitment to the armed forces under the scheme will cause "serious injury" to citizens, the institution of the armed forces and the country as a whole.

The petition filed by advocate M.L. Sharma urged the Supreme Court to declare the scheme notification issued by the Ministry of Defence on June 14 as "illegal, unconstitutional and *ultra vires*" the Constitution. "On June 14, contra to the constitutional provisions, without having approval in Parliament and without any gazette notification, the respondent [government] quashed century-old Army selection process and imposed the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in all three armed forces divisions and declared to start it from June 24, 2022," the petition said.

The lawyer said the armed forces could not discriminate with a policy that dropped 75% of those inducted after four years' service without even the provision of pension.

BJP trumps MVA in Maharashtra Council polls

Party wins five out of 10 seats in the election

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The election to 10 seats in the Maharashtra Legislative Council resulted in a nail-biting finish with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) yet again scoring over the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) – after the recent Rajya Sabha polls – by winning five out of 10 seats. Three MLAs each from the Congress and the Shiv Sena cross-voted in the secret ballot held on Monday.

Devendra Fadnavis

The BJP did not only win five seats but managed to win 134 votes of the MLAs – an increase of 10 votes – by snatching almost 21 votes more than its actual strength of 113 in the Assembly. The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which has a strength of 53, won 57 first preference votes, ensuring support of Independents to the party.

This is the second victory of the BJP – led by former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in 10 days, with the first being in the Rajya Sabha where the party managed to win three seats. Jubilant State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil, along with other party leaders, said that it was Mr. Fadnavis's strategy that helped the party to win five seats. "We won in the Rajya Sabha with 123 votes and now we have got 134 votes. I have been saying from day one that MVA MLAs do not trust this government and they will go by their conscience and will vote for us," he said.

Mr. Fadnavis said that the BJP's fifth candidate had zero votes to start with, but "we ended up winning more votes than Congress candidate". "Discontent against this government is out now. We will continue our struggle and we will only stop when we bring a people-friendly government. This is the beginning of change," he said.

The list of victors included the BJP's Pravin Darekar, Shrikant Bharatiya, Uma Khapre, Ram Shinde and Prasad Lad. The NCP's Eknath Khadse and Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar; the Shiv Sena's Sachin Ahir and Amshya Padvi and the Congress's Bhai Jagtap.

What could be termed as one of the blunders in terms of strategy, the Congress despite having 44 votes could not ensure victory of its candidate in the first round as Mr. Handore and Mr. Jagtap won only 22 and 19 votes, respectively. Mr. Jagtap won in the second round, while the party's second candidate, Chandrakant Handore, lost the battle in the second round. Mr. Bharatiya and Mr. Shinde of the BJP won the highest 30 first preference votes and ensured that their second preference votes counted first helping Mr. Lad to achieve the quota of 26 votes surpassing Congress candidates.

EC deletes 111 'non-existent' parties from list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday ordered the deletion of 111 registered unrecognised political parties that it found to be "non-existent" and referred three of the parties to the Department of Revenue for legal action for "serious financial impropriety", an EC statement said.

This was the second such action in the recent past against registered parties that have been found violating the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

On May 25, the EC deleted 87 non-existent registered unrecognised political parties.

Letters returned

The EC said the 111 parties in question had violated sections of the Act that required them to submit their address of communication and any change in address to the EC. "CEOs have reported that these RUPPs either have been found to be non-existent on verification or the letters issued by them, in pursuance to the Commission's order dated May 25, have returned undelivered by the postal department," the EC said.

The EC said if any of the parties were aggrieved by its decision, they should approach the Chief Electoral Officer concerned or the EC within 30 days along with evidence of existence, year-wise annual audited accounts, contribution report, expenditure report and other required documents.

"Further, a reference has also been sent to the Department of Revenue for necessary legal and criminal action against three RUPPs involved in serious financial impropriety," the EC said.

Central University of Himachal Pradesh
Dharamshala, District Kangra, HP-176215

Civil Services Examination (UPSC)2023 Free Coaching for SC Candidates

The Central University of Himachal Pradesh invites Online Applications for admission to its Free Coaching for Civil Services Examination (UPSC) both Prelims & Mains- 2023 to the SC Candidates under Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE) initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India. Interested candidates can apply for admission through the University portal https://cuhimchaladmission.samarth.edu.in. The last date of receiving the application along with relevant documents is 24th June, 2022.

REGISTRAR

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REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P.(O) - 03 / 2022-23

The tender invited for the work at (Sl No.04) Construction of H.L.Bridge over Power Channel at 6-250km of Gosala - Mundoghat road in the District of Sambalpur under State Plan for the year 2022-23, Tender ID No.2022_EICCL_77287_4 is hereby cancelled.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha

B-295 OIPR-34003/11/0021/2223

ARULMIGU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE, SAMAYAPURAM, TRICHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT - 621 112.
Telephone No.0431 - 2670480 E-Mail : symmariamman@gmail.com

Ref No. 12984/1431/C4 **Public Auction / Tender Notice** Dated : 18.06.2022

Public Auction / Tender for the collection of tonsured hair of devotees of Arulmighu Mariamman Temple Samayapuram, and its sub temple Arulmighu Adhi Mariamman Temple, Irum Samayapuram, Trichirappalli District, Tamilnadu, for Fasali 1432 **(06.06.2022 to 30.06.2023)** will be conducted on **08.07.2022 at 11.30 am** Mariamman Mandapam, First floor in Master plan complex Samayapuram as follows

1	Cost of Tender Form	Rs.500/- (Not Refundable) Enclose Demand draft for Rs. 500/- in favour of "The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer Arulmighu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Trichy" with the downloaded schedule copy towards the cost of tender form.
2	Auction / Tender Deposit amount	Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Only)
3	Date of issue of Tender forms	22.06.2022 to 07.07.2022 upto 5.45 PM (Between 10.00 AM to 5.45 PM) office working days
4	Last date for submission of Tender	08.07.2022 @ 11.00AM
5	Date of Public Auction	08.07.2022 11.30 AM
6	Date and Time of opening the Tender	After Public Auction as in column 5
7	Place of Auction / Tender opening	Mariamman Mandapam First floor (Master Plan Complex) Samayapuram.

Tender forms and Auction/ Tender conditions can be had from the temple office during office hours and also from the following website. https://samayapurammariamman.hrce.tn.gov.in

DIPRJ 2687 /TENDER/2022

S.Kalyani,M.L.,
Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer/ I/c Person

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in

Bid Ref. No. :OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-VETERINARY/14 Date : 20/06/2022

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Veterinary Items as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	20/06/2022, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail Id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	23/06/2022, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 29/06/2022, 3 PM	End Date & Time: 19/07/2022, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & Time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee of tender document.	Start Date & Time: 20/07/2022, 10 AM	End Date & Time: 27/07/2022,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	27/07/2022, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-857 OIPR-10112/11/0021/2223

REGIONAL DEPUTY REGISTRAR (HOUSING) OFFICE
No.7, Daniel Thomas Nagar, Thanjavur – 613 007.
TAMILNADU - INDIA Ph: 04362-274855

SITES FOR SALE

1. ZC 104 Mannargudi Cooperative Housing Society Ltd.,
2. T 322 Pattukottai Cooperative Building Society Ltd.,
3. T 710 Arulanandha Nagar Little Flower Cooperative Building Society Ltd.,
4. T 1391 Prathabashimapuram Cooperative Building Society Ltd.,
5. T 490 Sivajipuram Cooperative Building Society Ltd., (Liquidation)
6. Z 137 Thiruvarur Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., (Liquidation)
7. Z 3 Mayuram Cooperative Building Society Ltd., (Liquidation)
8. Z 557 Nagappattinam Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., (Liquidation)
9. ZB 102 Mayuram Cooperative Housing Society Ltd.,

Applications are invited through e-Tender Cum Auction for the sale of vacant sites plots owned by the above cooperative societies. The detailed particulars are available by the following web site
https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

Authorised Sale Committee

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
TIRUPATI DISTRICT **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Office of the Chief Engineer Adv.No.17/03/CE/TTD/2022-23 Date: 18-06-2022

e-tenders invited on e-procurement of the following work of TTD Engineering Dept.

NIT No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for completion	Schedule Download Start Date	Download End Date & Last Date for bid submission
1	2	3	4	5
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-I				
28/SE-/I/TTD/2022-23	Procurement of 1 Gram 22 Carat Gold Mangalasutrams of 10,087 Nos. for Kalyanamastu programme 2022	Open Tender 20 Days	22-06-2022 5.00 p.m.	07-07-2022 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.

Note: For full details log on to the website
https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in / or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/

Roc.No.PR4/13943/Adv.No.92/PRO/2022, Dated:20-06-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nine of a family found dead in Sangli

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Nine members of a family were found dead in their house in Sangli district of western Maharashtra on Monday.

According to the authorities, the bodies were found in two different locations at Mhaisal in Sangli Miraj taluk. While the cause of the tragedy has yet to be ascertained, the police suspect it to be a case of "collective suicide".

A senior district police official said the bodies were of two brothers (a veterinary doctor and a teacher) and their mother, wives and children.

The deceased are believed to have consumed a poisonous substance. Authorities said they were probing whether this was a "suicide pact".

(Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Sanjivini Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-4076 9002 (10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., Monday-Saturday).

Central Vista Avenue will be opened in a few days, says Puri

Closed from February 2021, the area is being thrown open after redevelopment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Vista Avenue is set to open in the next few days after remaining closed to the public since February 2021 for redevelopment, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri said on Monday.

At the launch of the National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) to train one lakh construction workers, he said: "In spite of heavy rain and all impediments, Central Vista Avenue will be opened in a few days."

The area, which is popular with Delhiites and visitors alike, was briefly unveiled for the Republic Day parade, but was barricaded again after January 26 as portions of the redevelopment project were yet to be completed. The project was to have been completed in November 2021.

Mr. Puri said the Pragati Maidan integrated transit corridor was an example of a project completed within a stipulated time.

Referring to a visit by Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and Public Works Department Minister Manish Sisodia in March, Mr. Puri said: "We have a very senior leader in Delhi who somehow came to know a month ago that the project is complete so he made a visit and got his photo clicked. In Punjab, in one month alone, he spent ₹18 crore or ₹20 crore on advertisements."

Mr. Puri said the ₹930 crore project was supposed to be funded 80% by the Centre and 20% by the Delhi government. He said he had asked Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi, "Was that 20% forthcoming?", adding, "I don't need to answer it because you know." "We have world-class *mohalla* clinics which collapse in the pandemic... You have people going to the UN to talk about world-class health and education, but whereas those of us who live here know what this is all about," he said.

Changing face: Work in full swing on the new Parliament building complex under the Central Vista redevelopment project in New Delhi on June 9. • R.V. MOORTHY

11 persons stuck in cable car in Himachal Pradesh rescued

Ropeway developed a snag after it moved from the hilltop

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

All the 11 persons who were stranded mid-air on a ropeway (cable car) in the "Timber Trail" hotel in Parwanoo district of Himachal Pradesh on Monday were rescued.

The cable car reportedly developed a snag after it moved from the hilltop and the travellers – six men and five women – got stuck around 11 a.m., according to the State's Emergency Operation Centre.

A rescue team of the hotel and National Disaster Response Force personnel conducted the evacuation.

"We will look into the incident. A safety audit would be conducted," Kritika Kulhari, Deputy Commissioner (Solan), told *The Hindu*.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who reached the spot, said an inquiry had been ordered.

He said steps would be taken to prevent such incidents.

Hanging by a thread: Rescue on after a cable car got stuck mid-air at Parwanoo in Himachal Pradesh on Monday. • PTI

'Muslim girl above 15 years can marry'

High Court cites Muslim personal law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that a Muslim girl above 15 years of age is competent to enter into a contract of marriage with a person of her choice.

Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi's assertion came during a petition filed by a Muslim couple, who fell in love and solemnised their marriage on June 6, 2022, as per Muslim rites and ceremonies. Both the petitioners in Punjab's Pathankot had approached the High Court seeking protection of life and liberty from the respondents, including family members.

> **Merely because the petitioners have got married against the wishes of their family members, they cannot possibly be deprived of the fundamental rights**
> PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC

Competent to marry

Pointing out that the marriage of a Muslim girl is governed by the Muslim personal law, Justice Singh stated, "...As per Article 195 from the book *Principles of Mohammedan Law* by Sir Dinshah Fardunji Mulla, the petitioner No. 2 (girl) being over 16 years of age was competent to enter into a contract of marriage with a person of her choice. Petitioner No. 1 (boy) is stated to be more than 21 years of age. Thus, both the petitioners are of marriageable age as envisaged by the Muslim Personal Law."

In his order on June 13, Justice Singh, however, pointed out that the issue in the case was not with regard to the validity of the marriage but to address the apprehension raised by the petitioners of danger to their life and liberty at the hands of the private respondents and to provide them protection. He directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Pathankot, to decide the representation of the petitioners and take necessary action as per law.

Address apprehension

"...The court cannot shut its eyes to the fact that the apprehension of the petitioners needs to be addressed. Merely because the petitioners have got married against the wishes of their family members, they cannot possibly be deprived of the fundamental rights," Justice Singh said.

The petitioner's counsel contended that in Muslim law, puberty and majority were one and the same and that there was a presumption that a person attained majority at the age of 15 years.

Australia seeks to revitalise Indo-Pacific ties

Deputy PM on a three-day visit, says New Delhi is one of Canberra's closest security partners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India is one of Australia's closest security partners and the government is focused on revitalising Australia's historically deep engagement with our partners across the Indo-Pacific, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Australia Richard Marles said ahead of a visit to India. The visit is scheduled from June 20 to 23.

This is the first high-level visit from Australia after the formation of a new government under Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in May, just two days before the Quad leaders summit in Tokyo where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

> **The rules-based international order that has brought peace and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific for decades is experiencing pressure, as we face shifts in the geostrategic order. Australia stands ready to work closer with India in support of an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific**
> RICHARD MARLES
> Defence Minister of Australia

Defence and security cooperation between India and Australia has significantly expanded in the past few years both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

"The rules-based international order that has brought peace and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific for decades is experiencing pressure, as we face shifts in the geostrategic order," Mr. Marles said in a statement issued by the Australian Defence Ministry. "Australia stands ready to work closer with India in support of an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific".

Noting that India and Australia are comprehensive strategic partners, Mr. Marles said he was committed to strengthening Australia's defence and security cooperation with India. "I am looking forward to meeting with my counterpart, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and holding our first bilateral Defence Ministers' meeting."

"Minister Singh has been instrumental in advancing India-Australia defence ties and I look forward to working with him to enhance the defence pillar of our comprehensive strategic partnership," he further added.

During the visit, Mr. Marles is also scheduled to meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and engage national security and defence policymakers.

IIT-Madras to set up 5G test bed for Army

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, along with the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), will establish a 5G test bed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering in Indore to facilitate the use of 5G technology for the Army along the borders.

Lt.Gen. M.U. Commandant, MCTE, on behalf of the Army Training Command, Shimla, and Institute Director V. Kamakoti signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, who is heading the programme, said, "The project would enable students and trainees at the college to be thoroughly familiar with the advanced technologies embedded in the 5G system. It is an example of how the 5G test bed developed with support from DoT to enable Indian companies and start-ups to test their products, can also be successfully leveraged for other productive purposes," he said.

The collaboration would provide an impetus to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using niche technology and use of AI-based algorithms for enhancing capabilities of the Indian armed forces.

CBI nabs Joint Drugs Controller in bribe case

He had allegedly taken ₹4-lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday apprehended Joint Drugs Controller S. Eswara Reddy for allegedly receiving a ₹4-lakh bribe to waive phase-three clinical trial of Insulin Aspart injection, an underdevelopment product of Biocon Biologics, officials said.

After getting inputs about an exchange of bribe, the CBI registered a case of criminal conspiracy and corruption against Mr. Reddy, posted at the CDSCO headquarters, Dinesh Dua, director at Synergy Network India Private Ltd., and others. The CBI, which was working on the input for over a month, carried out a raid and Mr. Dua was caught giving the bribe to Mr. Reddy of the total promised amount of ₹9 lakh on behalf of Biocon Biologics, a subsidiary of Kiran Majumder Shaw-led Biocon, officials said.

The CBI alleged that the regulatory work of Biocon was looked after by Guljit Sethi of Bioinnovat Research Services. Bioinnovat and Synergy Network have business dealings; so Mr. Dua agreed to pay the bribe.

Women's body notice to Indian Bank for discriminatory norms

Pregnant women not allowed to join service immediately

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Monday issued notice to Indian Bank over media reports that it has framed new guidelines preventing women who were more than three months' pregnant from joining service after being selected through due process.

"The Commission has learnt that the Bank has allegedly framed rules which state that if a woman candidate is three months' pregnant, then she would be considered as 'temporarily unfit' and would not be given immediate joining upon her selection. This will lead to delay in their joining and subsequently they will lose their seniority," the notice said.

The DCW said the action appeared to be discriminatory and illegal as it was contrary to the maternity benefits provided under the Code of Social Security, 2020.

"Further, it discriminates on the basis of sex which is against the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India," the notice read.

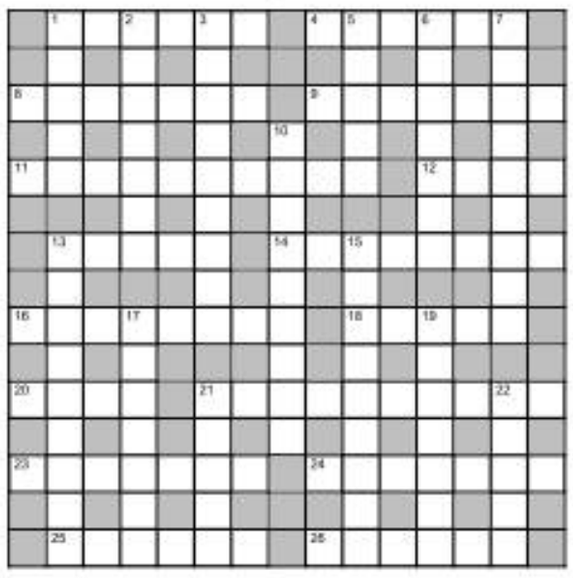
The DCW asked the bank to provide its response by Thursday. The panel also wrote to the Reserve Bank of India on Monday asking RBI governor Shaktikanta Das to intervene. The DCW pointed out that this was the second bank to do so, after State Bank of India framed similar rules earlier this year but later withdrew after facing a backlash.

TH CROSSWORD + 13588

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Ask/encourage vicar to take off top coat (6)
4 Store's nothing posh – has tacky, lacy, embroidered tank-tops (6)
8 Tip of church has gold – attractive architectural feature (7)
9 Sure Twix spread can be sandwiched? (7)
11 Oil producer's uniform had notice to be displayed in speedo oddly (6,4)
12 Not odd for function to be cut short (4)
13 Currency of world body impounded by Shell (5)
14 Red, uncut rocks sold at a loss (8)
16 Paid money to fry dead flies with hint of *elaichi* (8)
18 Mug of German scientist – not #1 in Germany (5)
20 Boycott ate English vegetable (4)
21 Inmate gang stole artwork that was smuggled (10)
23 Car company overcame struggle to advance (7)
24 Puerto Rico's gold taken at America at a certain rate (3,4)
25 Order Scottish dress to put on Queen (6)
26 Furniture of St. John returned to archives, finally (6)

Down

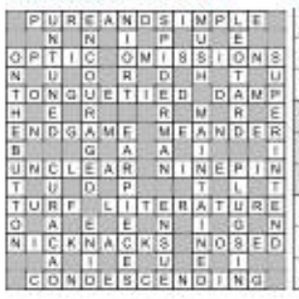
1 1-0 United? (2,3)
2 State's valuation – excluding crude oil – sadly unsatisfactory (7)
3 Check date and year represented by stock market event (6,3)
5 Overturn Union and wait for judgment (5)
6 Somewhat slow GE – a rival's found a way to accelerate (3,4)
7 Extra dubious opportunity that can get you some money (3,6)
10 Unemployed communist worker staging dhurna often (9)
13 Pizza at church office – paid by the slice? (9)
15 Animal from river tasted er... awful (6,3)
17 Regeneration of kidneys infected with tapeworm in the middle (7)
19 Ban half of poem – ban essay (7)
21 Abuse of drugs, finally overcome by medicine (5)
22 Attack overturned records (5)

SUDOKU

	5		2					3
1				6		2		
7				3		5		6
	8							7
			6		8			
9							1	
5		9		1				2
		1		8				4
2					9		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13587



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	5	4	6	8	2	3	9
3	2	6	7	9	5	4	1	8
9	4	8	1	2	3	6	5	7
2	5	9	6	8	7	1	4	3
8	6	1	3	4	2	7	9	5
4	3	7	5	1	9	8	2	6
5	7	4	8	3	1	9	6	2
1	8	2	9	5	6	3	7	4
6	9	3	2	7	4	5	8	1

FAITH

Lesson from Rasa leela

Many of the episodes in the Bhagavata Purana can be interpreted as illustrative of the deeper and esoteric meanings in the Bhagavad Gita, said Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. For instance, the underlying aim in the Rasa leela episode is to explain the realised state as one wherein true bhakti and jnana merge to become a singular quality of the experience of God. The Lord describes this state in the Gita: "The jnani, the one with discrimination, is continually united with Me. He is always devoted to Me and to no other. I am very dear to that person and he is dear to Me."

In the Rasa leela episode, the Gopis are shown to be engrossed in love sports with God and are immersed in limitless joy. Each one feels she is exceptional and so Krishna has chosen her as His companion. They are devastated when Krishna suddenly leaves them. They reveal their state of mind and console themselves with the surmise that the Lord has disappeared with one among them who is obviously more special to Him. They feel that she is a cut above all of them and Vyasa uses the phrase 'anaya araaditho noonum,' in this context. When roughly translated, it means, 'very devotedly worshipped by her.' He has chosen to be with her only because she has selfless devotion to Him.

She represents the realised state of a jnani in whom the intrinsic power of the Lord coexists with transcending bhakti. She is a symbol of jnana and is His very essence. In that state, there is no room for self importance or pride. The Lord's intention is to make all of them reach that state of a jnani. With the separation from the Lord and the consequent experience of extreme viraha tapa, the Gopis overcome their ahamkara and repent. They are united with the Lord by His Sankalpa.

'Unresolved national question impaired Sri Lanka's economic progress'

Addressing the long-pending demand of Tamils for self-determination will allow Sri Lanka to project a new image internationally, says the senior Tamil leader

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Addressing Sri Lanka's Tamil national question is imperative for the island nation's recovery from the crushing economic crisis it is facing, veteran Tamil leader R. Sampanthan said, contending that the unresolved issue had proved a major impediment for the country's economic progress since Independence.

Speaking to *The Hindu* recently, the 89-year-old Parliamentarian recounted the many historic opportunities that the Sri Lankan leadership missed, allowing the ethnic conflict to fester, and push the country into a protracted civil war. While corruption, misgovernance, and skewed priorities have led to Sri Lanka's current economic collapse, years of strife amid unfulfilled demands of the Tamil people impaired the country's economic progress, he said, drawing links between the island nation's worsening economic crisis and its long-pending political question.

An economic crisis brewing over the last couple of years aggravated in 2022, with Sri Lanka's foreign reserves dwindling amid a balance of payments crisis. The island nation has opted for a pre-emptive default on its nearly $50 billion foreign debt, while citizens struggle to access essentials amid crippling shortages and record food inflation – 57.4 % in May. Protesting citizens have blamed the ruling Rajapaksa administration for failing to arrest the rapid decline of an economy that was already fragile.

Referring to a longer arc of the island's history, Mr. Sampanthan said: "The unresolved Tamil question was the ground for the war that went on for about 30 years... colossal sums were spent on it. If not for the war, the country's economy would not have got to this situation."

United country

In his view, addressing the long-pending demand of Tamils for self-determination will allow Sri Lanka to project a new image internationally. "We can then show the world that we are a united country, where the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims – all communities can work together and build the country, through a Constitution that enables all the peoples of the country to exercise

R. Sampanthan

their sovereignty," Mr. Sampanthan said. "I don't see how our economy can improve without our conflict being resolved."

The civil war itself may have ended in 2009, but the conflict that led to it remains unresolved, he pointed out. "The reason for the war to occur has not been resolved in all these years." In fact, there are new reasons for concern. "It is a matter of utmost concern that the Sri Lankan government has been able to change the demographics of the north and east by settling Sinhalese families in areas traditionally inhabited by the Tamils. The Tamils are being weakened," he said.

Unkept promises

In March this year, a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) that Mr. Sampanthan leads – it is the largest parliamentary group representing Tamils of the north and east – met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to discuss Tamils' concerns and prospects of a political solution through a constitutional settlement. Mr. Sampanthan, in a detailed letter to the President ahead of the meeting, had emphasised the need for a political solution. But the President's meeting, twice postponed and held on March 25, focused on four other areas that he said would be promptly addressed. He promised to look into the release of long-term detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), prevent land grabs in the north and east by different state agencies, probe cases of enforced disappearances and establish special development fund for the north and east. The TNA awaits action on all four areas.

"At that time, Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris told us that the draft [Constitution] would be ready in two weeks. I have serious doubts if it will ever come," Mr. Sampanthan said.

Prior to that, the TNA submitted its proposals for a new Constitution.

Commenting on President Gotabaya's position on the issue, he said: "I don't think the President is unwilling to do the right thing. Even if he is willing to do the right thing, it appears that others are preventing him from doing it. Sometimes, I have asked myself if President Gotabaya is impeded by some sources close to him from moving forward... I have not come to a conclusion, but I wonder if the clergy and the Army could be involved [in that]." All the same, whether President Gotabaya and his government will come up with a new Constitution "remains a matter of great doubt", the Tamil leader said, adding: "which means that the country's main problem that started over 70 years ago, continues."

In this context, India has a "special duty", Mr. Sampanthan noted. The Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 was signed in July 1987, about 35 years ago and is "yet to be fully implemented". The Prime Minister of India offered India's good offices in 1983 and has been involved ever since then. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Sri Lankan Parliament and spoke of his belief in "cooperative federalism", Mr. Sampanthan recalled.

"We should all come together and resolve the Tamil question. It will be in the best interests of Sri Lanka and India," he said.

Macron seeks way to salvage majority

His alliance won 245 seats, short of the 289 needed for majority; left and far-right parties make gains

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron and his allies on Monday were scrambling for a way out of political deadlock after losing their parliamentary majority in a stunning blow for the president and his reform plans.

Mr. Macron's Ensemble (Together) coalition emerged as the largest party in Sunday's National Assembly vote, but was dozens of seats short of keeping the parliamentary majority it had enjoyed for the last five years.

Surges on the left and the far-right destroyed the dominant position of Macron's deputies who, for the past five years, had backed the President's policies without fail.

The left-leaning *Liberation* daily called the result a "slap in the face" for Mr. Macron, while the conservative *Le Figaro* said he was now "faced with an ungovernable France".

Mr. Macron's Together alliance won 245 seats, far short of the 289 needed for an overall majority.

The election saw the new left-wing alliance NUPES make gains to become the main opposition force along with its allies on 131 seats, according to the Interior Ministry. But it is unclear if the coalition of Socialists, Communists, Greens and the hard-left France Unbowed will remain a united bloc in the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, the far-right under Marine Le Pen posted the best legislative performance in its history, becoming the strongest single opposition party with 89 seats, up from eight in the outgoing chamber.

A confident Ms. Le Pen said her party would demand to chair the National Assembly's powerful finance commission, as is tradition for the biggest opposition party.

"The country is not ungovernable, but it's not going to be governed the way Emmanuel Macron wanted," Ms. Le Pen told reporters on Monday.

Ms. Le Pen said she would now give up her party's leadership and focus instead on running her parliamentary group.

No-trust motion

Left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon, who leads the NUPES alliance, said he would bring a motion of no-confidence against Macron's Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne as early as July.

"The government formed by Emmanuel Macron cannot just continue as if nothing had happened," Mr. Melenchon ally Manuel Bompard said Monday.

Ms. Borne, who was elected to Parliament in her first-ever political race, was seen as vulnerable as Mr. Macron faces a new Cabinet shake-up after several of his top allies lost their seats.

His health and environment Ministers lost their seats and by tradition will have to resign, as did the Parliament Speaker and the head of Mr. Macron's parliament group.

"For now, the Prime Minister remains the Prime Minister," government spokeswoman Olivia Gregoire defiantly told France Inter radio on Monday. "My fear is that the country is paralysed".

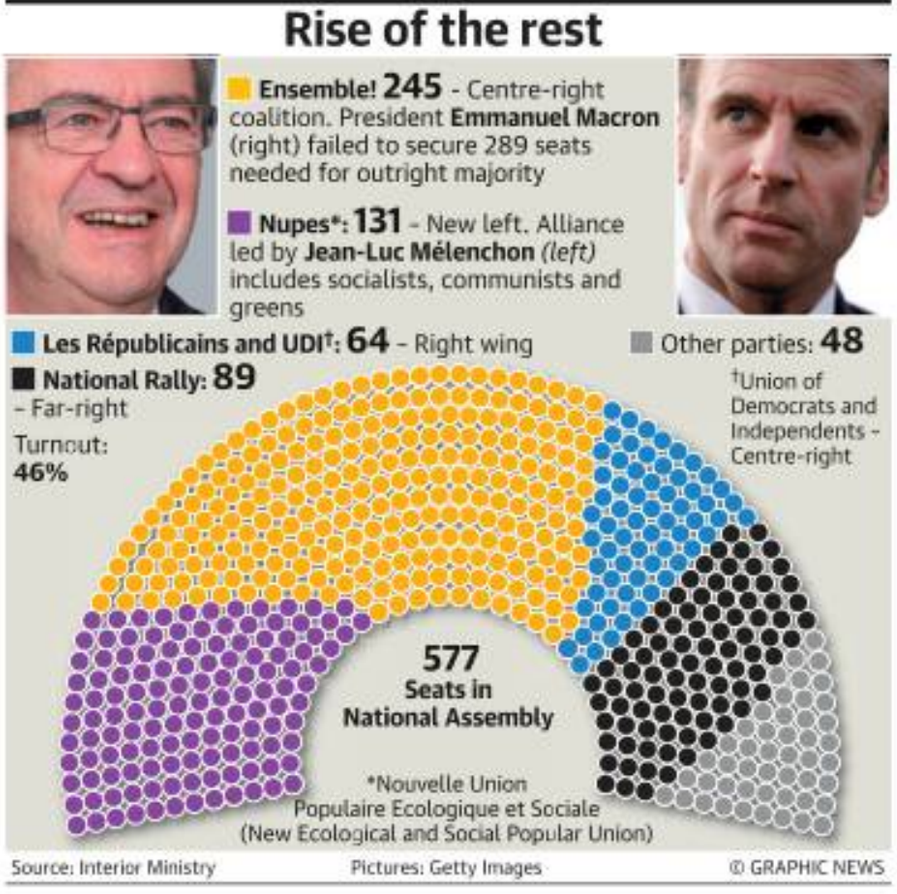
The outcome tarnished Mr. Macron's April presidential election victory when he defeated Ms. Le Pen, becoming the first French President to win a second term in over two decades.

The options available to Mr. Macron, who has yet to publicly comment on the result, range from seeking to form a new coalition alliance, passing legislation based on ad hoc agreements to even calling new elections.

The most likely option would be an alliance with the Republicans, the traditional party of the French right, which has 61 MPs. LR president Christian Jacob however said his party intended to "stay in opposition".

Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire admitted "a lot of imagination will be needed" from Mr. Macron's party in what Le Figaro said was "a jump into the unknown".

Mr. Macron had hoped to stamp his second term with an ambitious programme of tax cuts, welfare reform and raising the retirement age. All that is now in question.


Rise of the rest
Ensemble! 245 - Centre-right coalition. President Emmanuel Macron (right) failed to secure 289 seats needed for outright majority
Nupes*: 131 - New left. Alliance led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon (left) includes socialists, communists and greens
Les Républicains and UDI†: 64 - Right wing
Other parties: 48
National Rally: 89 - Far-right
Turnout: 46%
†Union of Democrats and Independents - Centre-right
577 Seats in National Assembly
*Nouvelle Union Populaire Ecologique et Sociale (New Ecological and Social Popular Union)
Source: Interior Ministry
Pictures: Getty Images
© GRAPHIC NEWS

Ex-guerrilla leader Petro elected Colombia's President

He will succeed deeply unpopular conservative Ivan Duque

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOGOTA

Ex-guerrilla Gustavo Petro was elected the first ever left-wing president of Colombia on Sunday, after beating millionaire businessman Rodolfo Hernandez in a tense and unpredictable run-off election.

With all votes counted, Mr. Petro – the 62-year-old former Mayor of Bogota – won with 50.4% to Hernandez's 47.3%. "As of today, Colombia is changing, a real change that guides us to one of our aims: the politics of love... of understanding and dialogue," said Mr. Petro.

Mr. Hernandez, 77, accepted the result, in which he came up short by 7,00,000 votes, in a Facebook live broadcast.

"I hope that Mr. Gustavo Petro knows how to run the country and is faithful to his discourse against corruption," said the construction magnate, who had made fighting graft his main campaign pledge.

Rise of Left: Gustavo Petro (left) and Francia Marquez after victory of second round election on Sunday. •REUTERS

Mr. Petro will succeed the deeply unpopular conservative Ivan Duque, who was barred by Colombia's Constitution from standing for re-election, in a country saddled with widespread poverty, a surge in violence and other woes. Speaking to delirious supporters at his party headquarters in Bogota, Mr. Petro held out an olive branch to his opponents.

Mr. Duque on Monday promised a "transparent and efficient" transition to the new administration led by Gustavo Petro.

Israel headed for fresh elections

Bennett said that his weakened coalition will be disbanded

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's office announced on Monday that his weakened coalition will be disbanded and the country will head to new elections.

The election, expected in October or November, would be Israel's fifth in three years. The election could also set the stage for a return to power by longtime PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who is now the opposition leader. Mr. Bennett has struggled to keep his unruly coalition of eight parties together, and defections have left the crumbling alliance without a majority in parliament.

Mr. Bennett and his main coalition partner, Yair Lapid, decided to present a vote to dissolve parliament, Bennett's office said. Mr. Lapid is then to serve as caretaker prime minister.

Mr. Bennett formed the eight-party coalition in June 2021. It included a diverse array of parties, from dovish factions that support an end to Israel's occupation of lands captured in 1967, to hardline parties that oppose Palestinian independence.

Hunt 'moderate Republicans': Senate runner

'Republicans in Name Only are surrendering to Joe Biden and radical Left'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

With former U.S. President Donald Trump's role in the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol being increasingly highlighted by a series of hearings at the House of Representatives, Republicans who are not supportive of Mr. Trump have faced threats to their lives and their families.

The latest example was a Twitter ad released on Monday by GOP Senate hopeful Eric Greitens, a former Rhodes Scholar and U.S. Navy SEAL, asking supporters to order "hunting permits" (stickers) for use on moderate Republicans.

Eric Greitens

"We are sick and tired of the Republicans in Name Only [RINO] surrendering to Joe Biden & the radical Left. Order your RINO Hunting Permit today!" the advertisement says, with a video showing men in fatigues [depicting SEALS] blasting open the door of a house with automatic weapons, following which Mr. Geitner enters the house with a gun and asks people to join the MAGA crew (MAGA stands for ' Make America Great Again').

The stickers, which can be bought for a price, say, "Expires: When we save America."

Mr. Greitens, who faces a Republican primary election in early August (which will determine the party's candidate for the November mid-term election), had resigned from the post of Governor of Missouri in 2018, amid allegations of sexual assault and campaign finance violations.

Prior to joining the GOP, Mr. Greitens used to be a Democrat.

His ad, which received immediate criticism after it was posted, comes weeks after an 18 year-old murdered 19 children and two adults at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. "The modern Republican Party is a party of extremists and political violence, plain and simple. This is proof," said a tweet from the Lincoln Project, a political action committee that was created to prevent Mr. Trump's re-election.

Another reaction blamed House and Senate Minority (Republican) leaders for the problem.

Russia flays Lithuania transit ban

REUTERS
MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Monday called Lithuania's decision to ban the transit of some goods to Russia's Kaliningrad region 'unprecedented' and vowed to respond.

Lithuanian authorities banned the transit of goods which are sanctioned by the European Union across its territory, which includes the only rail route between mainland Russia and the Kaliningrad exclave on the Baltic Sea. Banned goods include coal, metals, construction materials and advanced technology.

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Belgium gives Patrice's remains

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

Belgium handed over a tooth, the only known remains of the murdered Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba, to his family during a ceremony in Brussels on Monday.

Mr. Lumumba became the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) first democratically elected PM after independence from Belgium in 1960, but alarmed the West with overtures to Moscow. His government lasted just three months before he was overthrown and assassinated.

'Same-sex marriage ban constitutional'

REUTERS
TOKYO

An Osaka court on Monday ruled that Japan's ban on same-sex marriage was not 'unconstitutional', dealing a setback to LGBTQ rights activists in the only Group of Seven nation that doesn't allow people of the same gender to marry. Three same-sex couples – two male, one female – had filed the case in the Osaka district court, only the second to be heard on the issue in Japan. In addition to this, the court also threw out their demands for 1 million yen ($7,414) in damages for each couple.

"This is awful, just awful," an unidentified female plaintiff said outside the courthouse in footage shown on public broadcaster NHK after the ruling, her voice cracking.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the plaintiffs planned to appeal.

MARKET WATCH

	20-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,598	0.46
US Dollar	77.98	0.08
Gold	50,735	-0.13
Brent oil	113.9	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	663.15	-5.80
Apollo Hosp	3811.70	110.45
Asian Paints	2660.70	80.50
Axis Bank	628.30	-6.90
Bajaj Auto	3615.95	-13.00
Bajaj Finserv	11709.65	-45.20
Bajaj Finance	5470.45	50.90
Bharti Airtel	640.90	-2.75
BPCL	296.05	-4.95
Britannia Ind	3378.60	46.50
Cipla	925.85	11.10
Coal India	176.85	-5.80
Divis Lab	3533.55	51.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4151.80	5.10
Eicher Motors	2623.25	18.45
Grasim Ind	1316.00	25.95
HCL Tech	960.05	1.30
HDFC	2135.25	82.55
HDFC Bank	1322.15	32.40
HDFC Life	553.15	2.35
Hero MotoCorp	2452.55	-14.85
Hindalco	321.50	-12.20
Hind Unilever	2195.90	85.45
ICICI Bank	685.95	-0.90
Indusind Bank	784.05	-22.85
Infosys	1414.15	26.85
ITC	264.10	0.80
JSW Steel	550.35	-4.25
Kotak Bank	1679.20	5.60
L&T	1471.80	-18.15
M&M	982.70	-14.95
Maruti Suzuki	7660.95	-27.20
Nestle India Ltd.	16967.10	324.70
NTPC	137.25	-3.20
ONGC	134.40	-7.05
PowerGrid Corp	208.25	-3.10
Reliance Ind	2543.05	-46.95
SBI Life	1075.95	-6.15
State Bank	434.70	-6.30
Shree Cement	18414.00	368.25
Sun Pharma	805.30	11.90
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	716.85	5.20
Tata Motors	382.70	-6.35
Tata Steel	861.40	-45.30
TCS	3112.40	23.50
Tech Mahindra	979.35	14.30
Titan	1961.70	25.25
UltraTech Cement	5333.30	156.00
UPL	640.45	-24.70
Wipro	414.65	9.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.78	78.10
Euro	81.92	82.27
British Pound	95.31	95.71
Japanese Yen (100)	57.67	57.91
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.68
Swiss Franc	80.77	81.14
Singapore Dollar	56.08	56.32
Canadian Dollar	59.82	60.09
Malaysian Ringitt	17.66	17.75
Australian Dollar	54.37	54.60

Source:Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Ashok Leyland unveils new ecomet CNG truck

CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. has rolled out ecomet STAR 1115 CNG truck in the 11.44 T gross vehicle weight category. The truck is powered by 144 HP turbocharged engine and comes with multiple CNG cylinder capacities. With this product, Ashok Leyland has strengthened its ICV CNG portfolio in the 11T CNG segment, the firm said.

ICICI Pru Life declares ₹968.8-cr. annual bonus

MUMBAI

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Ltd. has declared an annual bonus of ₹968.8 crore for FY2022 to all eligible participating policyholders. "This is the 16th consecutive year of bonus payment and also the highest-ever by the company till date, exceeding the FY2021 bonus by 12%," the company said in a statement. "We believe this bonus will enable our participating policyholders to move a step closer to their financial goals," said MD & CEO N.S. Kannan.

India faces near-term challenges: FinMin

Ministry flags upside risks to fiscal deficit target following cuts in excise duties on diesel, petrol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India is facing near-term challenges in managing its fiscal deficit, sustaining economic growth, reining in inflation and containing the current account deficit but the country is relatively better placed to weather these headwinds compared with other nations, the Finance Ministry said in its monthly economic report.

Near-term challenges need to be managed carefully without sacrificing the hard-earned macroeconomic stability, the ministry said .

"Many countries around the world, especially developed countries, face similar challenges. India is relatively better placed to weather these challenges because of its financial sector stability and its vaccination success in enabling the economy to open up," it added.

Trying times: India must manage its fiscal deficit, curb oil-led inflation and contain the current account deficit. • K.V.S. GIRI

India's medium-term growth prospects remain bright as pent-up capacity expansion in the private sector is expected to drive capital formation and employment generation in the rest of this decade, it added.

Observing that the capex budget for 2022-23 was expected to underpin growth, the ministry said an upside risk to the budgeted level of gross fiscal deficit had emerged following cuts in excise duties on diesel and petrol.

An increase in the fiscal deficit may cause the current account deficit to widen, compounding the effect of costlier imports, and weaken the value of the rupee thereby further aggravating external imbalances, creating the risk (low at this time) of a cycle of wider deficits and a weaker currency, it said.

'Must control spending'

"Rationalising non-capex expenditure has thus become critical, not only for protecting growth-supportive capex but also for avoiding fiscal slippages. Depreciation risk to rupee, however, still remains as long as net Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outflows continue in response to the increase in policy rates and quantitative tightening in advanced economies as they wage a prolonged battle to calm inflation," it said.

The imported components of high retail inflation in India have mainly been elevated global prices of crude and edible oil, it said, adding the onset of the summer heat wave has also contributed to the rise in food prices domestically.

However, going forward, it said, crude prices may be tempered as global growth weakens and the OPEC nations increase supply.

The momentum of economic activities sustained in the first two months of the current financial year augurs well for India to continue to be the quickest growing major economy in 2022-23, the ministry added.

SEBI fines RIL for delayed Facebook deal disclosure

Levies fine of ₹3 mn on RIL, 2 officials

REUTERS
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday fined Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and two of its compliance officers for violating fair disclosure norms during Facebook's $5.7 billion investment in its digital unit.

In April 2020, Meta's Facebook invested $5.7 billion in RIL's Jio Platforms, aiming to allow WhatsApp to offer payments services to millions of small businesses. The deal helped billionaire Mukesh Ambani's RIL slash its heavy debt load.

'Newspaper reports'

SEBI said RIL did not disclose the deal even after newspaper reports in March 2020 published price-sensitive details about the imminent investment that led to a spike in its shares.

Reliance abdicated its responsibility to verify and come clean on the information floating around

"When the bits of (unpublished price-sensitive information) that then became selectively available the company abdicated its responsibility to verify and come clean on the unverified information that was floating around," SEBI said in its order late on Monday.

The regulator imposed a penalty of ₹3 million ($38,522) on Reliance and the two compliance officers.

Will buy stakes in IndiGo only from Bhatia: Qatar Air CEO

Al Baker's remarks come as IndiGo's Gangwal looks to exit

JAGRITI CHANDRA
DOHA

Qatar Airways is not interested in buying a stake in IndiGo's parent InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. from its co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal, who plans to sell his holdings in the budget Indian airline over the next five years, the Doha-based carrier's CEO Akbar Al Baker said on Monday.

"We will only buy something from Rahul [Bhatia], not from anyone else," Mr. Al Baker told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the International Air Transport Association's AGM in Doha.

'Good friend'

The comments make it clear that Mr. Al Baker, who has had an abiding interest in IndiGo, is not inclined to take advantage of the feud between the Indian airline's two promoters, Mr. Bhatia and Mr. Gangwal. The Qatar Airways' CEO is known to be close to Mr. Bhatia whom he has previously termed a "good friend".

In February, Mr. Gangwal resigned from InterGlobe Aviation's board and said that he would be gradually offloading his stakes over the next five years.

Promoters' holdings

Mr. Gangwal, his wife Shobha and their family trust together hold 36.6% stake in the parent entity and Mr. Bhatia and his related entities own almost 38%.

Last year, InterGlobe Aviation's shareholders approved a change in the company's Articles of Association, which had until then offered the promoters the right of first refusal during a stake sale. The move paved the way for Mr. Gangwal to sell his holding without his co-founder's approval.

(The writer was in Doha at the invitation of IATA)

'Auto part firms' revenue may grow 8-10%'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Auto ancillaries' revenues are expected to grow 8-10% in 2022-23 on the back of stable demand and likely easing of supply-chain concerns in the second half of the year, ICRA said.

At the same time, the sector's coverage metrics is also likely to remain comfortable in 2022-23, benefitting from healthy accruals and relatively low incremental debt funding requirements, ICRA said.

In FY22, 31 auto-part firms with cumulative revenue of more than ₹1.75 lakh crore grew 23% y-o-y in revenue, driven by original equipment manufacturers, replacement, export volumes and pass-through of commodity prices.

Maruti opens bookings for new Brezza at ₹11,000

New version to be unveiled by June end

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki on Monday opened bookings for the new version of its compact sport utility vehicle (SUV) Brezza, slated to be unveiled by month end, at ₹11,000.

The new Brezza will come with an electric sunroof, 6-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters, six airbags and ESP, and will be powered by the Next-Gen Smart Hybrid K-Series Engine, the carmaker said. "Maruti Suzuki Brezza took the Indian market by storm with its launch in 2016," said Shashank Srivastava, senior executive director (Marketing & Sales).

Shashank Srivastava

"With over 7.5 lakh units sold in just 6 years, Brezza commands a strong market share in the compact SUV segment in the country," Mr. Srivastava added.

The entry of the new Brezza is expected to disrupt the already competitive compact SUV segment, which saw the unveiling of the Venue facelift from Hyundai last week.

Other strong competitors in the segment are Kia Sonet and Mahindra XUV 300.

DBS Bank buys 9.9% stake in Svakarma Fin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

DBS Bank India Ltd. said it had acquired a 9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance, a non deposit taking, non-banking finance company, for boosting the delivery of relevant financial solutions to micro enterprises.

"DBS Bank India's strategy for its expanded franchise across over 300 locations and over 500 branches envisages significant growth in SME and consumer businesses," the bank said in a statement.

DBS Bank India said it would continue to identify opportunities to support lending to micro enterprises in a cost-efficient manner through its own expanded franchise as well as through partners.

SRL Diagnostics charts ₹400-cr. growth plan

Firm to focus on tier-II, tier-III cities

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

SRL, the diagnostics arm of Fortis, has earmarked ₹400 crore for organic and inorganic growth, according to a top official.

"Currently, SRL has over 425 labs and 2,500 customer touchpoints and the plan is to set up another 70 labs and 1,000 touchpoints in tier-II and tier-III towns," CEO Anand K. said in an interview. "It would call for an investment of about ₹200 crore," he added.

Anand K

While the new customer touchpoints are expected to come up before end FY23, it would take at least one more year to set up its own labs. Most of the funds for these activities would be met through internal accruals.

SRL is also setting aside another ₹200 crore for acquisitions. "We are actively scouting for firms and are presently evaluating about 20-25 firms," he said.

Asserting that preventive health check up would play a major role in the future, he said that the diagnostic firm would focus on setting up new labs and touchpoints in tier-II and tier-III cities, so as to be nearer to the patients.

"We are already present in major cities and towns across India. Moving to tier-II and tier-III cities is the next logical step," he said.

VIL may raise ₹500 cr. from Vodafone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea's board is scheduled to meet on June 22 to consider a proposal for raising funds of up to ₹500 crore from the Vodafone Group.

The fundraising will be through the issuance of equity shares or convertible warrants on a preferential basis to one or more entities belonging to Vodafone Group (one of the promoters of the company).

Over the last few months, Indian telecom operators have been adding more firepower to their arsenal as the market gears up for the roll-out of 5G services.

In March this year, Vodafone Idea's board had approved raising up to ₹14,500 crore, including ₹4,500 crore from the promoter entities – Vodafone and Aditya Birla Group.

Airline profitability within reach in '23, says IATA

Cites easing of travel curbs, strong pent-up demand, expanded personal savings

JAGRITI CHANDRA
DOHA

Profitability across the airline industry is "on the horizon" in 2023 due to the easing of travel restrictions, strong pent-up demand for travel, and expanded personal savings, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in its annual forecast. Airlines would, however, have to guard against a higher cost environment in the face of rising fuel prices, the industry group said.

Worldwide losses for the industry are expected to narrow to $9.7 billion in 2022, an 'upgrade' from the earlier forecast of $11.6 billion.

The losses stood at $137.7 billion in 2020 and $42.1 billion in 2021.

"As the industry returns to more normal levels of production, and with high fuel costs likely to stay for a while, profitability will depend on continued cost control. And that encompasses the value chain," said Director General Willie Walsh. "Our suppliers, including airports and air navigation service providers, need to be as focused on controlling costs as their customers to support the industry's recovery," Mr. Walsh stressed at IATA's AGM in Doha, where CEOs of almost 108 global airlines had gathered.

Clear skies: Asia-Pacific will be the fastest growing region over the next two decades, says IATA's Walsh. • REUTERS

'Asia-Pacific lags'

Profitability around the world would be led by North America, which was expected to clock $8.8 billion profit in 2022. For Asia-Pacific airlines, recovery had been lagging due to strict and enduring travel restrictions, particularly in China, along with an uneven vaccine roll-out, he said.

The demand in 2022 in this region was expected to reach 73.7% of 2019 levels, and aircraft capacity would reach 81.5%. Losses were likely to narrow down to $8.9 billion, said Mr. Walsh.

Despite the slow recovery, Asia-Pacific would be the fastest growing region over the next two decades due to the favourable income growth and demographic factors and was expected to add about 2.5 billion additional passenger journeys per year by 2040, at an average annual rate of 4.5%, he added.

(The writer was in Doha at the invitation of IATA)

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Verstappen tightens grip on title race

The Dutchman pips Sainz in a riveting contest to widen his lead; Hamilton finishes on the podium

CANADIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONTREAL

Max Verstappen increased his lead in this year's Formula One title race on Sunday when he drove his Red Bull to a thrilling victory in a closely-fought Canadian Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Dutchman controlled a tactical race from pole position through three safety car interventions and resisted intense late pressure from Ferrari's Carlos Sainz to win by under a second.

Seven-time World champion Lewis Hamilton, who on Friday declared his car as "undriveable", came home third for Mercedes to claim his second podium of a difficult season ahead of teammate George Russell in fourth.

Thrilling climax: Verstappen fended off Sainz to take the chequered flag for the first time in Canada. • AFP

46 points clear

It was Verstappen's first Canadian victory in his 150th career start, his sixth this year and 26th overall, hoisting him 46 points clear in the championship. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who started at the back of the grid after taking a penalty for a new engine, finished fifth ahead of Esteban Ocon of Alpine.

Valtteri Bottas and his Alfa Romeo teammate Zhou Guanyu were later promoted to seventh and eighth after Fernando Alonso, in an Alpine, was penalised five seconds for his defending against Bottas. The Spaniard slipped to ninth with Lance Stroll 10th for Aston Martin.

Sergio Perez suffered ill-luck on lap nine when, battling in midfield after starting 13th, his Red Bull lost drive at Turn 13. "I've lost the engine, man," he told the team as a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) was deployed.

A second VSC was deployed on lap 20, when Schumacher pulled up and retired at Turn 13 after his highest ever grid position of sixth. It appeared his Haas car had suffered a power failure.

Sainz also pitted, re-joining third ahead of Hamilton – with Verstappen back in the lead ahead of Alonso, who did not pit. Alpine's reluctance to pit Alonso, still on his original mediums, resulted in Hamilton making an easy pass for third on lap 25. The two-time champion finally came in after 29 laps and re-joined eighth behind Leclerc, who was struggling on old tyres to pass Ocon.

By mid-distance, Verstappen led Sainz by 7.5 seconds with Hamilton third, a further nine seconds adrift.

Crash

With 20 laps to go, Yuki Tsunoda crashed his AlphaTauri at Turn Two and a full Safety Car was deployed.

Verstappen regained the lead, but faced a close scrap with the Spaniard when the action resumed, after a 10-minute delay, with a final dash to the flag.

THE RESULTS

1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:36:21.757s; 2. Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) at 0.993; 3. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 7.006; 4. George Russell (Mercedes) 12.313; 5. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 15.168; 6. Esteban Ocon (Alpine) 23.890; 7. Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo) 25.247; 8. Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo) 26.952; 9. Fernando Alonso (Alpine) 29.945; 10. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) 38.222; 11. Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren) 43.047; 12. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) 44.245; 13. Alexander Albon (Williams) 44.893; 14. Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri) 45.183; 15. Lando Norris (McLaren) 52.145; 16. Nicholas Latifi (Williams) 59.978; 17. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 1:08.180.

Fastest lap: Sainz 1:15.749s.

DNF: Sergio Perez (Red Bull), Mick Schumacher (Haas), Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 175 points, 2. Perez 129, 3. Leclerc 126, 4. Russell 111, 5. Sainz 102, 6. Hamilton 77, 7. Lando Norris 50, 8. Bottas 46, 9. Ocon 39, 10. Alonso 18, 11. Gasly 16, 12. Magnussen 15, 13. Ricciardo 15, 14. Vettel 13, 15. Tsunoda 11, 16. Guanyu 5, 17. Albon 3, and 18. Stroll 3; Schumacher, Hulkenberg and Latifi yet to score a point.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 304 pts, 2. Ferrari 228, 3. Mercedes 188, 4. McLaren 65, 5. Alpine 57, 6. Alfa Romeo 51, 7. AlphaTauri 27, 8. Aston Martin 16, 9. Haas 15, and 10. Williams 3.

Daruvala to test McLaren F1 car

It will be part of the Testing of Previous Cars programme

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala will realise his long-cherished dream of getting behind the wheel of a Formula One car when he tests the 2021 McLaren F1 car later this week at the Silverstone circuit in England.

The racer from Mumbai is part of the Red Bull Racing academy but will test for rivals McLaren with the blessings of the former.

"I am incredibly grateful to be getting this opportunity. Testing in Formula 1 is extremely limited and opportunities like these are not easy to come by, especially with a championship-winning team like McLaren. It will be my first experience in a Formula 1 car, which I'm sure will be special," said Daruvala.

This will be part of McLaren's Testing of Previous Cars (TPC) programme which is used to evaluate young drivers.

The McLaren test will give him a chance to show his potential behind an F1 car and marks an important step in the India racer's career.

Dream-come-true: Daruvala will get behind the wheel of an F1 car for the first time in his career. • TWITTER@DARUVALAJEHAN

- The 23-year-old is now competing in the F2 championship for Prema Racing. He is third in the standings and the top-placed Red Bull junior driver in the category

Goal and preparation

Speaking about his goal and preparation, Daruvala explained, "My main aim is to learn as much as I can. It's tempting to go flat out from the beginning, but we have a programme to run through with short and long runs. At the end of the day, I am a racing driver so I want to go as fast as possible and really enjoy myself."

"I have already had a few days in the team's simulator to get used to the switches and buttons on the steering wheel," he added.

The 23-year-old currently is competing in the F2 championship driving for Prema Racing. He is currently third in the drivers' standings and the top-placed Red Bull junior driver in the category.

Apart from Red Bull Racing, the energy drinks company runs another F1 team – AlphaTauri, where it usually places its young drivers if they are worthy of a place on the F1 grid.

However, it is unlikely that AlphaTauri is going to change its current drivers Pierre Gasly and Yuki Tsunoda, and there will be limited chances for Daruvala in F1 at the moment.

When asked if he would open for a third/reserve driver's role in F1 instead of competing in another championship, Daruvala said, "If I have a reserve role for next year with the possibility of a lot more seats opening up for 2024, then I will take it. I don't think it's that easy to get a full-time drive in a championship next year, so I think my sole focus is still trying to get into F1."

Lanka squad for India series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMBULLA

Sri Lanka on Monday announced a 19-member women's squad for the white-ball series, comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is, against India starting here from June 23.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu will lead both the squads, which include vital players like Hasini Perera, Nilakshi de Silva, Oshadi Ranasinghe and Inoka Ranaweera.

Vishmi Gunaratne, who is yet to make her ODI debut for Sri Lanka, also finds a place in both squads.

The T20I series will be played between June 23 to 27 in Dambulla, followed by the ODI series, a part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25, in Pallekele between July 1 and 7.

The ODI series will see India play in its first match of the current ICC Women's Championship cycle.

It will be the beginning of a new era in ODIs for India, which will mark its first series after the retirement of influential skipper Mithali Raj.

The squad: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Hasini Perera, Kavisha Dilhari, Nilakshi de Silva, Anushka Sanjeevani, Oshadhi Ranasinghe, Sugandika Kumari, Inoka Ranaweeram, Achini Kulasuriya, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Vishmi Gunaratne, Malsha Shehani, Ama Kanchana, Udeshika Prabodhani, Rashmi de Silva, Hansima Karunaratne, Kaushani Nuthyangana, Sathya Sandeepani, and Tharika Sewwandi.

Athapaththu. • FILE PHOTO

Serena skips practice

She is scheduled to play doubles today

ASSOCIATED PRESS
EASTBOURNE

Serena Williams skipped her scheduled practice session at Eastbourne at late notice on Monday as the 23-time Grand Slam champion prepares to make her return to competition after a year away.

Serena trained at a nearby club over the weekend and was expected to have an onsite session at Devonshire Park ahead of playing doubles with Ons Jabeur.

Their first match is set for Tuesday against Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova.

The 40-year-old Serena, who hasn't competed after getting injured in the first round of Wimbledon last year, was awarded a wild card for singles at the All England Club.

Jabeur said it was "unbelievable" to have been asked by Serena to be part of her journey back to competition.

Serena. • FILE PHOTO

Delhi HC dismisses Manush and Swastika's petitions

TABLE TENNIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Manush Shah and Swastika Ghosh's writ petitions challenging their exclusion from the table tennis squads for the Commonwealth Games were dismissed by the Delhi High Court on Monday.

The two had approached the court after the Committee of Administrators (CoA), running the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), had excluded them from the final CWG squad announced earlier this month.

"I was told by our lawyer that our case has been dismissed," said Manush's father Utpal. The selectors did not include Manush in the men's team although he was in the top-four as per the criteria set by the CoA.

The squad included veteran Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, and Sanil Shetty, with Manush on standby.

Swastika, 19, was named as a standby with the revised women's squad comprising Manika Batra, Diya Chitale, Reeth Rishya, and Sreeja Akula.

Archana's case

Archana Kamath, the second highest-ranked Indian player at 66th after Manika Batra (39th), too, has moved the court after being dropped from the team for the Birmingham Games.

Her case is coming up for hearing on June 22 at Karnataka High Court.

Archana was initially included in the squad as an 'exception' as she did not meet the selection criteria laid down by TTFI, but was dropped by the CoA and Diya Chitale was brought in her place.

Interestingly, Chitale had also moved the court after being initially excluded from the squad.

The CWG is scheduled to be held between July 28 and August 8.

Player avoids Russia ban at Wimbledon

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

A women's doubles player who was born in Moscow will be able to get around the ban on Russians at Wimbledon this year because she now represents the country of Georgia.

Natela Dzalamidze, a 29-year-old who is currently 44th in the doubles rankings, is listed as being from Georgia on the WTA Tour website – and in Wimbledon's entry list for the tournament, which begins June 27. Dzalamidze will play with partner Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia.

"Player nationality, defined as the flag they play under at professional events, is an agreed process that is governed by the Tours and the ITF (International Tennis Federation)," an All England Club spokeswoman said in an email to *The Associated Press* on Sunday.

The All England Club said in April it would not allow players from Russia or Belarus to compete at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament this year because of the war in Ukraine.

Russia, with help from Belarus, began attacking Ukraine in February.

The WTA and ATP professional tennis tours responded to the All England Club's ban by announcing they would not award ranking points to any players for results at Wimbledon.

One player, two nations: Dzalamidze, born in Moscow, has been listed as a Georgia player on the WTA website.

Fitzpatrick makes a spectacular finish

The Englishman wins his first Major; Scheffler, Zalatoris share second spot

US OPEN GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BROOKLINE

England's Matt Fitzpatrick captured his first Major title on Sunday by winning the US Open in dramatic fashion, making spectacular shots as rivals crumbled under final-round pressure.

After a thrilling three-man fight down the back nine at The Country Club, Fitzpatrick fired a two-under 68 to finish on six-under 274 and defeat Americans Scottie Scheffler and Will Zalatoris by one stroke.

After birdies by top-ranked Masters champion Scheffler on the 17th and Zalatoris on the 16th, Fitzpatrick clung to a one-stroke lead on the 18th.

The Englishman sent his tee shot into a left fairway bunker, but blasted a magnificent approach to 18 feet and two-putted for par. Zalatoris had a 14-foot birdie putt to force a playoff but when he missed, the record $3.15 million top prize went to Fitzpatrick.

Sensational shot: Fitzpatrick blasts his way out of a bunker in the final round. • AFP

Matching Nicklaus

World No. 18 Fitzpatrick, who won the 2013 US Amateur here, matched Jack Nicklaus as the only US Open and US Amateur winners on the same course.

"It means the world," Fitzpatrick said of the achievement.

Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters champion, fired the best round of the week, a bogey-free 65, to finish fourth on three-under 277.

Four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy and two-time Major champion Collin Morikawa shared fifth on 278, while second-ranked Spaniard Jon Rahm, the defending champion, shared 12th on 281 after a closing 74.

Scheffler fired a final-round 67 while Zalatoris, now a three-time runner-up in nine Major starts, and third-ranked McIlroy each closed on 69 and seventh-ranked Morikawa, the reigning British Open champion, shot 66.

Johnson best 'rebel'

From the 15 LIV Series players, only four made the cut. Two-time Major winner Dustin Johnson led the way, firing a 72 to finish on 284.

England's Richard Bland fired a 74 to finish on eight-over 288 with 2018 Masters winner Patrick Reed on 290 after a 74 and 2020 US Open winner Bryson DeChambeau on 293 after a 75.

Top scores: 274: Matt Fitzpatrick (Eng, 68, 70, 68, 68); **275:** Scottie Scheffler (USA, 70, 67, 71, 67), Will Zalatoris (USA, 69, 70, 67, 69); **277:** Hideki Matsuyama (Jpn, 70, 70, 72, 65).

278: Collin Morikawa (USA, 69, 66, 77, 66), Rory McIlroy (NIR, 67, 69, 73, 69).

A 'gorilla' off his back!

Caddie Foster a Major winner finally

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BROOKLINE

Billy Foster grabbed the flag on the 18th green, pulled it toward his face and gave it a kiss. Finally, that flag belongs to him.

After four decades of caddying for some of the greatest in the game, Foster has his Major title.

Matt Fitzpatrick's U.S. Open win Sunday also marked a breakthrough for one of the most popular loopers in the game. Among others, Foster has carried for Seve Ballesteros, Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn – even for Tiger Woods at the Presidents Cup one time – but had never been on the bag for a Major winner.

"Normally, people have a monkey on their back. I had a gorilla," Foster said. "I can't even think about being excited. It was just 'pffffff.' What a relief!"

He'll get a nice cut of the winner's cheque. Winning caddies also traditionally bring home the flag on the 18th green.

"I can't tell you how much it means to Billy. It's unbelievable," Fitzpatrick said. "I know it's something he's wanted for a long, long, long time. To do it today is incredible."

Foster and Fitzpatrick connected shortly after the caddie and Westwood split in 2018. "He kept telling me the first time on the job, I'll just do 25 weeks and maybe get a fill-in for the others," Fitzpatrick said. "I think he's had about two weeks off in four years."

Joy unbound: A four-decade-long wait ends for Foster. • AFP

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Australia: 4th ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Hurkacz beats top-ranked Medvedev

HALLE

Hubert Hurkacz upset top-ranked Daniil Medvedev to win the Halle Open and underline his credentials as a contender for Wimbledon two years running. The big-serving Polish player needed just 64 minutes to beat Medvedev 6-1, 6-4 and win his first grass-court title. AP

Correction: In the caption for the picture published with the Bengaluru race results on June 20 (Monday), the trainer of Philosophy is S. Padmanabhan and not S. Ganapathy as mentiond. The error is regretted.

Dressel grabs his 15th Worlds gold

Maiden major titles for Martineghi, Walsh and Huske; Sajan Prakash disappoints

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUDAPEST

American Caeleb Dressel grabbed his 15th World championship gold medal and his second in two days as he won the 50m butterfly final in Budapest on Sunday.

The other three winners on Sunday night were all collecting their first major-championship golds – Italian Nicolo Martinenghi in the 100m breaststroke and American women Alex Walsh in the 200m medley and Torri Huske in the 100m butterfly.

Dressel took just 18 strokes and 22.57s for his latest gold.

No stopping him: Dressel celebrates his 50m butterfly success. • GETTY IMAGES

Santos does it again!

At 42, runner-up Nicholas Santos broke his own record as oldest World championship medallist. The Brazilian edged Andrew Michael of the United States by one hundredth of a second to claim silver. "I'm 42 years old, it's not so easy to stay here competing with these guys," Santos said.

Meanwhile, India's Sajan Prakash finished 25th overall in the men's 200m butterfly. The 28-year-old clocked 1:58.67s to finish eighth in his heat.

In the men's 800m freestyle, Kushagra Rawat finished 23rd. The 22-year-stopped the clock at 8:15.96s to finish fifth in his heat.

The results:

Men: 50m butterfly: 1. Caeleb Dressel (USA) 22.57s; 2. Nicholas Santos (Bra) 22.78; 3. Nic Fink (USA) 22.79s.

100m breaststroke: 1. Nicolo Martinenghi (Ita) 58.26s; 2. Arno Kamminga (Ned) 58.62s; 3. Nic Fink (USA) 58.65s.

Women: 100m butterfly: 1. Torri Huske (USA) 55.64s; 2. Marie Wattel (Fra) 56.14s; 3. Zhang Yufei (Chn) 56.41s.

200m medley: 1. Alex Walsh (USA) 2:07.13s; 2. Kaylee McKeown (Aus) 2:08.57s; 3. Leah Hayes (USA) 2:08.91s.

SNAPSHOTS

BFC signs Prabir Das

BENGALURU: Prabir Das has been signed by Bengaluru FC (BFC) on a three-year deal, the club announced on Monday. A right-back, Prabir joins BFC from ATK Mohun Bagan. Prabir, a product of the Pailan Arrows Youth Academy, brings with him the experience of having played for a number of clubs, and has won the Federation Cup and Indian Super League.

Berrettini retains Queen's title

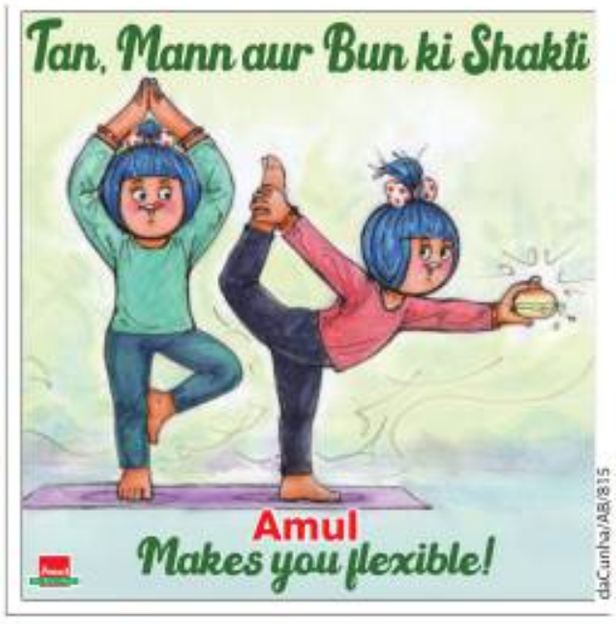
LONDON: Italy's Matteo Berrettini retained his ATP Queen's Club title with a straight-sets win over Serbia's Filip Krajinovic on Sunday. Berrettini won 7-5, 6-4. .

Jabeur triumphs as Bencic retires

BERLIN: Top seed Ons Jabeur won the final of the WTA tournament in Berlin on Sunday after Olympic champion Belinda Bencic was forced to retire after twisting her left ankle with the former leading6-3, 2-1.

Usyk-Joshua re-match on Aug. 20

LONDON: World heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk will defend his WBA, IBF and WBO titles in a re-match with Britain's Anthony Joshua in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on August 20, promoters announced on Sunday.



Ronaldo Singh wins bronze in time trial

CYCLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

World junior champion and Asian record holder Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam clocked 1 minute 1.798 seconds to win the bronze medal in the 1-kilometre time trial of the Asian Cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Monday.

It was the country's first-ever medal in the event. Yuta Obara of Japan (1:01.118) and Mohammad Fadhil (1:01.639) won gold and silver. The second bronze medal for the host came through Birjit Yumnam in the 10-kilometre Scratch race in the junior men's section.

Hwarang Kim of Korea and Zulfahmi Aiman of Malaysia won gold and silver respectively.

India was fifth in the medals table with three silver and 11 bronze medals.

In the para section, India was third behind Thailand and Japan, with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

The journey begins

First move: Anand kickstarted the Chess Olympiad torch relay from the Red Fort in Delhi on Monday. • PTI

Payas all set for an encore

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Defending champion and World No. 3 Payas Jain (Delhi) will be the star attraction in the under-19 category as the boys' events of the 83rd Junior and Youth table tennis championships get underway at the YMCA TT Arena on Tuesday.

Payas has shown consistent form in the tournaments he has played this season and it will be tough for his opponents to stop him from an encore here.

Payas' teammate and World No. 34 Yashansh Malik is also in the fray, and the two could meet in the final. In the under-17 category, Bengal Ankur Bhattacharjee, the top ranked player, starts as the favourite.

Mr. Consistent: Payas has been on top of his game this season. • FILE PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR

As many as 212 players have entered for the under-17 category while 209 will compete in the under-19 section.

India names full-strength squad for CWG

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India on Monday named a full-strength 18-member senior men's hockey squad for the Commonwealth Games with Manpreet Singh returning as captain and dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh as his deputy.

Hockey India (HI) had initially decided to send a second-string team to the CWG due to the short turnaround time between the Birmingham event and the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

However, with the Asian Games now postponed to next year, HI decided to select a strong team for the prestigious event, scheduled from July 28. India had finished fourth at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

The team: Goalkeepers: P.R. Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak; **Defenders:** Varun Kumar, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (vice-capt.), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh.

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh (capt.), Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma; **Forwards:** Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. CEED\EE10\Tr.Oil Testing\2022-23\238 Dated: 07.06.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Bids are invited from the qualified bidders for **Carrying out Oil Analysis of Transformers of different projects of KPCL spread across Karnataka**, by different tests as per KPCL specification and furnishing of reports, including collection of oil samples as per IS:6855-2003 and repeat tests if necessary, during the period of order. The details of brief bid notification and pre-qualificaiton can be seen on KPCL website: **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in** and downloaded from GoK e-Procurement website: **https:// eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of bids: **08.07.2022 upto 15.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Chief Engineer (Electrical Designs)**, KPCL, 3rd Floor, (Drugs Control Department Premises), Site No. 3, Survey No. 13/3, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: ceedkpcl@gmail.com

Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, Civil Wing
PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER
Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Bengaluru, invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate e-tenders for the following work:
N.I.T. No. : **17/PCD/BGL/2022-23**
Name of Work : **Civil works for repairs and maintenance to Hampankatta PO building under Mangaluru Division (excluding SPM Qtrs)**
Estimated Cost : **₹33,83,178/-**
Earnest Money: **₹67,664/-**, Period of completion : **04 Months**
Last time and date of submission of bid : **04.07.2022 15.00hrs.**
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com**
Executive Engineer(C)
Postal Civil Division
Bengaluru- 560032.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಃಎ2/ಬಯಾವಿ/ಹೊ.ಸು.ಸೌ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-15/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.06.2022
ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧೀನ ವಲಯ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಕ್ಷರಸ್ಥ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಕಛೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಸ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2022ರ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ವಯ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2022ರಂದು ನಡೆದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ Single Tender ಆಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು www.eproc.karnataka.gov.inವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.06.2022 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.06.2022 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದವರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2022 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 69,64,000/- ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1,74,100/-** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08226-224831.
ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ಮಾಸಂ/ಚಾಜನಗರ/ಟಿ:2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂಲೋವಿಚಿ:ವಿಇ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ-12:2022-23/945 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.06.2022
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ
ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆಲ್ಲಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂಲೋವಿಚಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್-12:2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.05.2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪ.ಜಾ. 152565ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಮರು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ:- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಲು/ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 28.06.2022 ಸಮಯ 17-30 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 29.06.2022 ಸಮಯ 16-00 ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 30.06.2022 ಸಮಯ 16-01 ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam ಪಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08194 222446) ಹಾಗೂ ಜೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಮೂ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 080 25501216 ಮತ್ತು 080 25501227 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ. ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.
DIPR/CTA/MCA/261/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE|O|/AEE-1/T-64/22-23/1308-14 Date:20.06.2022
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Mode Only)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender for the following works.
1) Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/ 22-23/PTK/Addl. PTR @ Neelagunda Dt. 26.05.2022. for Providing Additional 1 X 12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at 220/66/11kV R/s Neelagunda in Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijay Nagar Dist. including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major material Power Transformer and 11 kV Switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL).
2) Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/ 22-23/PTK/ Spare PTR @ Koppal Dt. 03.06.2022 for Providing Spare 1X20MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformer at existing 110/33/11kV S/s Koppal in Koppal Taluk & District including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer and 11kV switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL).
3) Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/ 22-23/PTK/Spare PTR @ Ballari North Dt. 03.06.2022 for Providing Spare 1X10MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformer at existing 110/33/11kV S/s Ballari North in Ballari Taluk & District including supply of equipment's/ materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer and 11kV switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL).
4) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/ AEE-1/22-23/ 110kV Kukanoor-Mangalore Line/ Dated 14.06.2022 for Conducting detailed survey using modern survey techniques for Construction of 110kV SC Radial line on DC towers from the existing 110/33/11kV Kukanoor Sub-Station to the existing 110/11kV Mangalore Sub-Station for a distance of 25 km. in Yelburga Taluk of Koppal District.
Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "eProcurement-KPTCL" or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 21.06.2022** at 11:00Hrs details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad-583 233
Tele-Fax: 08539-270094

(Government of Karnataka)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN
Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com
TWO COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 03/2022-23 (POSTPONED-2) DATED : 20-06-2022
On Behalf Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department Hassan Division Hassan. Has Invited the Tender for the works of Arsikere Taluk Approved under 2021-22 MVS Mention Below, **Two Cover System works** 1. Alur, Belur, Hassan & Sakaleshpur Taluk -01 Work (General Category) 2. Holenarasipura Taluk -02 works (General Category) Above work tenders are invited in Two cover system in e-procurement portal. The tender details are available in www.e-procurement.karnataka.gov.in From **21-05-2022** After 5.30P.m . As per the Previus Notification Last Date for Reciept of Tenders was Dt: 23.06.2022 before 5-30 P.M. The same as been extended upto Dt:01.07.2022 before 5-00 P.M Technical bid will open on dated : **04-07-2022** after 11.00 A.M. The Financial bid of the Technically qualified bidder will be open on dated: **06-07-2022** after 11.00A.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights to cancel the tender without giving any reason. Due to some Technical Issues the above said tenders for 2 MVS works of Holenarasipura taluk have been not uploaded in the E-proc Portal. Re-notification will be published separately.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.
ಮಾಜಲಾಸಂಪ್ರಯೋಇ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/201/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
Phone No: 0836-2747944, Email.ID :eepwddha@gmail.com
ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇಧಾ/ಟೆಂ-1,2/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/2022-23/1765 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20/06/2022
ಟೆಂಡರ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ KW – 1, 3 & 4
ವಿಷಯ : ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮುಂದೂಡುವ ಕುರಿತು.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:2022-23/797 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11/05/2022
ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : (1) **2022-23/797 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11/05/2022** ರಲ್ಲಿಯ – ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾದ ಒಟ್ಟು 65 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 64 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16/06/2022 ರಂದು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಉ.ಸಂ 06 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳದ ಅಭಾವದಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 34 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದ ಕಾರಣ ಈ ಎರಡೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಉಳಿದ ಒಟ್ಟು 62 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದವರೆಗೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ ರೂ. 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ (ಒಟ್ಟು 01- ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ).
(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ-ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **29/06/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30/06/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **02/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)
ಟೆಂಡರ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ. 500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ (ಒಟ್ಟು 54-ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು)
(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ-ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **29/06/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30/06/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **01/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **04/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)
ಟೆಂಡರ ರೂ. 500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ. 980.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ (ಒಟ್ಟು 07 – ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು)
(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ-ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **02/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **04/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **05/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **08/07/2022** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)
ಸಹಿ/- (ಶ್ರೀ. ಟಿ.ಎಸ್. ಮುರಳೀಧರ) ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ಮಾಸಾಸಂ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/238/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Bhadra Generating Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
ABSTRACT 'e' TENDER NOTIFICATION
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/Work Indent 12387/Call 2 Date: 14-06-2022 Bids in two covers are invited through **'e'** procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **" Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 30 HP Submersible pump to RBPH dewatering pit, providing of gate valves for RB-1 & 2 GOP oil pressure line & re-positioning of heat exchangers of River Bed Units of Bhadra Generating Station."** from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar works. **EMD:** ₹50,000/- Last date & time for online submission of tenders: **28-06-2022 up to 16:30 hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid: **30-06-2022** at **10:30 hrs.** Further details can be had from: The Executive Engineer\O&M\Bhadra, Bhadra Generating Station, KPCL, B.R.Project - 577115, Bhadravathi Tq. Shivamogga District.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, Commercial Complex Building, Majestic, Bengaluru- 560 020.
No.EE(GNR)/E-Proc/004/2022-23 Date:20.06.2022
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System) (KW-4)
The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagara Division invites the tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of work (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements to Drain and Providing Asphalting and Cement Concrete Road to Link Road and surrounding area in Ward No. 77.	200.00	2,00,000/-
2	Providing Asphalting CC Road and Improvements to Drains of East Link B Street and Other Cross Road in Ward No. 94.	150.00	1,50,000/-
3	Providing Asphalting CC Road and other Improvements works in Resildar Street and VV Giri Colony Cross Road in Ward No. 94.	150.00	1,50,000/-
4	Providing Cement Concrete Road and Improvements to Drain in Avalamma Choultry Slum Surrounding area n Ward No. 95.	200.00	2,00,000/-
5	Providing CC Road and Improvements to drain in Selvanagar Slum and Providing asphalting to Nagendrappa Garden and surrounding area in Ward No. 96.	200.00	2,00,000/-
6	Providing Cement Concrete to cross roads and providing asphalting improvements to drain at Gopalapura "E" Street Main Road, and surrounding area in Ward No. 96.	200.00	2,00,000/-
7	Providing CC Roads to KV Temple Street and surrounding area in Ward No. 109.	200.00	2,00,000/-
8	Providing asphalting, Improvements to drain and providing CC Road to Bannappa Park and surrounding area in Ward No. 109.	200.00	2,00,000/-
9	Providing CC Roads and Improvements to Drain at Manavarthipete Main Road and surrounding area in Ward No. 120.	200.00	2,00,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **24.06.2022 onwards. 2)** Pre-bid Meeting : **28.06.2022 at 16.00 Hrs. 3)** Opening of Technical bids: **06.07.2022 at 12.30 Hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk 080-22441076.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division.
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene